



April 17, 2023

Ohio House of Representatives
Columbus, Ohio

RE: OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 6

Dear Representatives,

I am a licensed psychologist in Ohio and the co-founder of PFLAG Cleveland, a local chapter of the National nonprofit organization. PFLAG is the nation's largest organization dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them. Our chapter has been active in this effort in the Greater Cleveland area since 1985.

I write to oppose HB6 which would ban trans athletes from participation in organized school sports. In my professional opinion, I believe this proposed ban would be psychologically harmful to young, gender-diverse students. Research is clear: children participating in sports achieve lifelong health and mental health benefits; preventing access to school sports programs, because of their perception of their gender identity, will deprive these young people from these benefits.

I urge members of the House to reject this bill based upon the harm it will bring to a minority population in Ohio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JES JAMES SELLERS".

Jes James Sellers, PhD
Psychologist
Co-founder of PFLAG Cleveland &
Member of the Advisory Board



PFLAG Cleveland c/o 615 Prospect Rd., Berea, OH 44017
mail@pflagcleveland.org

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: APRIL 18, 2023

Name: JES JAMES SELLERS

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): PFLAG CLEVELAND

Position/Title: PSYCHOLOGIST / FOUNDING MEMBER

Address: 2332 DELAWARE DRIVE

City: CLEV. HTS State: OH Zip: 44106

Best Contact Telephone: 216.374.6231 Email: DRJESSELLERS@GMAIL.COM

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB6 TRANS ATHLETE BAN

Specific Issue: "

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you testifying: In-Person Written-Only

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? < 1 MIN

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

SEE ATTACHED LETTER