

House Higher Education Committee
Opponent: HB 6
April 24th, 2023

Chairman Young, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the Higher Education Committee.
My name is Caleb Smiley and I am asking you to oppose HB6, as it is harmful and dangerous.

This bill is not motivated by a desire to make sports a more fair and equitable space for Ohioans. It is designed to push some of the most vulnerable and marginalized children in our community out of a public space. I want sports to be an equal playing field for all involved, but there is no way that a blanket ban on all trans people at all ages in all sports will do that with any semblance of nuance. Where do intersex individuals fit into this bill? How do you intend to “prove sex”? Under the most generous of interpretations, you are choosing to bury your head in the sand rather than engage with a complicated topic on the level that it requires.

The organizations *already regulating* this space are far more capable of navigating this issue than this indiscriminate exclusion. I beg that you use your precious time for more valuable work that will actually expand access to sports, rather than waging an opportunistic, pernicious culture war using the children of Ohio as pawns.

We do not reach a more equitable society when we make our decisions based upon fear and scapegoating. This bill does both those things. I urge you to vote no on house bill 6.

Thank you,
Caleb Smiley