

**Testimony of Victoria “Tori” L. DeLaney, J.D. Candidate 2024, Student of Law at the
University of Cincinnati College of Law**

Before the House Higher Education Committee

April 2023

Written Testimony Only

Chairman Young, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the House Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for hearing my testimony today. My name is Tori DeLaney. I am a law student at the University of Cincinnati College of Law and a member of the LGBTQ+ community. I am writing today to oppose House Bill 6 (HB 6), the Save Women’s Sports Act. This bill will increase the mental strain on women athletes, disrupt team unity, and keep driven, competitive, and skilled women out of sports. I stand firmly against a bill like this that would so fundamentally undermine women’s athletics.

Sports require players to have mental fortitude as much as physical ability. This bill would add mental strain to women in sports by requiring women to fight a social battle in addition to their athletic one. Not only would women athletes have to keep their heads in the game, but they would also need to keep their heads on a swivel, lest their athletic prowess lead to fellow athletes accusing them of being a man.¹ This bill would only hinder women athletes in their pursuit of greatness.

This bill would further undermine women’s sports by tearing apart teams. Many team sports hold tryouts; the best of those trying out make the team. This bill would allow a legal avenue to anyone who did not make the team, or worse, would allow one team member to question the womanhood of another. (Proposed § 3345.562(F)(1)). In either situation, the report and subsequent legal battle would destroy team unity and create a toxic environment for women who need to work together to meet their athletic goals. This bill would destroy athletic unity and the ability of women to trust each other. This bill should not be allowed to progress.

The Save Women’s Sports Act only undermines and frustrates women’s athletics. I urge this committee to prevent this bill from progressing any further. Ohio women’s athletes deserve more respect and dignity than this bill offers. Thank you.

¹ Siobhan Ball, *TERFs Accuse Chinese Women Runners of Being Men*, DAILY DOT (Feb. 28, 2020), <https://www.dailydot.com/irl/terfs-accuse-chinese-national-athletes-looking-like-men/> (noting that cisgender women athletes are increasingly becoming targets of harassment because of their gender non-conforming style or their natural, physical features).