

Opponent Testimony for House Bill 183
House Higher Education Committee
October 10, 2023
Alicia B.

Chair Young, Vice Chair Dobos, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the House Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Alicia and my pronouns are she and her. I live in northeast Ohio. Professionally, I am a Program Manager in healthcare and I am also a veteran. Personally, I am the dedicated and incredibly proud mom of two amazing children, one who is 15 years old and identifies as gender queer, and the other who is 10 years old and is transgender. I am also the wife of an adjunct college professor and National Guard soldier who just recently returned from a deployment in Southwest Asia. They are all in support of this testimony today and we are all opposed to House Bill 183.

After what seemed like such a short summer recess, we find ourselves back here fighting the same battles again. Once again, I, like many other parents, am here today defending the existence of our children, trying to convince a committee full of strangers that this is yet another bill that is harmful and dangerous to our children. Our 10 year old daughter has long, golden blonde hair down to her elbows, flits around in sparkly dresses, and belts every soprano Broadway tune you could possibly imagine. She is one of the girliest girls I know, and yet this bill would force her to use the “boys bathroom” at school, because her sex assigned at birth is male.

Representative Lear and Representative Bird say that this bill is “about protecting students in Ohio schools”, but what students are they talking about protecting? Certainly not my child. Forcing my daughter to use the “boys bathroom” will put her at risk of bullying and violence, beyond the risk of bullying and violence that she lives with every day because bills like this and the others introduced earlier this year, are based on misinformation, fear, and ignorance.

This isn't just our story. This is the story of so many families here in Ohio and across the country who are fighting for the rights of their transgender and gender nonconforming children. We just want our kids to have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else. We just want our kids to have the chance to live healthy, happy, and fulfilling lives as their true and authentic selves. Isn't that what every parent wants for their child? Why suddenly is that too much to ask? On behalf of my family and so many others, I urge you to vote NO on House Bill 183. Thank you.