WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 10/9/2023

Name: Erin Fox

Are you representing: Yourself ☑ Organization ☐

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: Graduate Research Associate

Address: 48 E Tulane Rd

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

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 183

Specific Issue: _____

Are you testifying as a: Proponent ☐ Opponent ☑ Interested Party ☐

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? written only

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

I am opposed to this bill for several reasons. First, implementation and enforcement of it would be invasive toward students of all genders and would impose an additional administrative burden on our already-overwhelmed schools. Second, instead of protecting students, this bill would only increase transgender students ' risk for experiencing stigma, bullying, and violence. Research shows that bills such as these do not result in increased criminal activity in restrooms, but do increase the likelihood that transgender students feel unsafe at school. Third, these bills increase discrimination against LGBTQ students, which is associated with lower GPAs and higher likelihood of dropping out of school, thus limiting the overall success of our schools. In doing so, this bill would limit the potential of Ohio ' s children to become productive adults in our workforce. Fourth, bills such as this one are shown to be associated with increased mental health concerns among LGBTQ students, leading to increased disparate rates of anxiety, depression, and suicide. But most of all I am opposed to this bill because it is discriminatory and harmful to transgender students, who deserve the same educational opportunities as their cisgender peers.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.