

Opponent Testimony for HB 183

Ohio House Higher Education Committee

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Katherine M. Aloï

Tom Young, Dave Dobos, Joe Miller and Members of the Ohio House Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing my testimony to be read today. My name is Katherine Marie Aloï, she/her/hers. I am a wife, mother of two adult daughters, one of whom is transfeminine, a former high school teacher, former community college teacher and current library assistant working in adult reference. As a mother of a transgender daughter and as someone who has taught transgender students, and who has worked with and known transgender individuals in my library work and through my church, I am strongly opposed to HB 183.

I have seen how difficult it is for my daughter to just try to exist as the woman she knows herself to be and to try to feel comfortable and safe doing so. One of the things which causes her a great deal of anxiety is having to use a restroom in public places. In some places, she just will not use the restroom because she does not feel safe. Transgender individuals are not a threat to cisgender persons, but sadly, some cisgender people are very much a threat to transgender people. HB 183 would make transgender children even more at risk than they already are.

While my own daughter and the transgender students I have previously taught would not be affected by this bill, I must speak against it for those who would be affected, some of them students who come into the library regularly whom I and my colleagues may not even be aware are transgender. It is not my business, nor is it anyone else's unless they care to share that information with them. They are who they know themselves to be and they should be able to safely and inconspicuously use the bathroom which corresponds to the gender they know they are without anyone interfering in that private act.

I ask that you consider what I have said and vote NO on HB 183.

Thank you for listening to my letter of testimony.