

Chair Young, Sponsor Bird and Ranking Member Miller:

Please see the attached witness slip and witness testimony.

As a matter of human decency, HB 183 is bad law.

I am a proud Ohioan. I'm a wife, mother and a practicing Christian. My daughter, who is a high school senior, is also a proud Ohioan. She has been an honor student. She is a National Merit Commended Scholar. Her first choice for college and beyond would be to remain in her home of Ohio and contribute to the community here.

My daughter is also transgender. She attends an Ohio public school and has applied to at least one Ohio public university.

Bills like HB 183 which needlessly victimize and "other" transgender people will be the direct cause of the State losing another bright young person to another state.

As if this bill advances I can't in good conscience advise her to pursue education or career in this state. Can you imagine being a teenager in high school trying to find your way, wanting to stay at a school in your home state, to be near your parents and church community, and knowing that you can't because your State Legislature, the people who are supposed to represent the interests of the whole state, are targeting your community as predators in the absence of any valid data?

Turning a portion of the State's population into a political football and dehumanizing them while not solving actual problems is truly shameful.

Over 11,000,000 people live here. We need job training, infrastructure and improved educational opportunity. We don't need the bathroom police. The legislature's continued and sick obsession with marginalizing transgender people instead of serving all Ohioans is pathetic and gross. According to U.S. News and World Report, Ohio is in the bottom half of U.S. States in terms of quality of education (#29). Spending time on policies such as this one that do NOTHING to advance the education of any Ohioan is wasteful and frankly inappropriate.

Please do not advance this bill for the good of my family and in the interest of all Ohioans. Turn your interests instead to policies that are productive. Policies that can improve educational outcomes. Because this is not a policy that will improve educational outcomes for any Ohioan.

Kristina M
Geauga County