

Opponent Testimony for House Bill 183:
“Regarding single-sex bathroom access in schools and universities”
House Higher Education Committee

Author: Peter Zweber
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Chair Young, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Miller, and members off the House Higher Education Committee,

My name is Peter Zweber. My wife and I live in Centerville, Ohio with our two daughters. I work as a defense contractor supporting the mission being executed at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. The purpose of this testimonial is to oppose the House Bill (HB) 183: “Regarding single-sex bathroom access in schools and universities.” As a father and a citizen of Ohio, I believe this bill unfairly targets transgender children and young adults.

I oppose HB 183 because it is unnecessary legislation and will cause harm to transgender children and adults, an already vulnerable minority. If transgender children are forced to use the bathrooms associated with their gender assigned at birth, the reaction from onlooking people will put the transgender children at risk of harassment, bullying, and possible assault. For example, how would people view a person with a beard, who was female at birth, walk into a female bathroom. It is also a waste of time for the school to spend its efforts enforcing an unnecessary law as compared to spending its resources on educating and protecting our children. As with any legislation, is it more important to protect the sensitivities of the majority or protect the freedoms of a minority. Since I am a freedom loving American and Ohioan, I support transgender children and therefore oppose HB 183.

I was also offended by the sponsor testimonies presented on October 4, 2023. They stated that gender is strictly defined by a person’s chromosomal makeup. A person is actually defined by the way they reasonably see themselves. As pointed out from questioning by Rep. Abdullahi, the sponsors also spent a significant amount of time attacking general transgender identity than pointing out the merits and necessity of their proposed bill. It appears that the sponsors, at best, do not respect transgender identity and, at worst, believe transgender people are an abomination. God created all things and people, including transgender people. I would rather believe in the evidence of God’s creation than the sponsor’s interpretation of God’s will. All people should be embraced for who they are, and the government should not pass laws which discriminate and cause harm to any specific group of people. HB 183 does just that by putting the lives of transgender people at risk.

It is for these reasons, and others not stated here, that I request that you and the rest of the Higher Education Committee oppose HB 183 and do not favorably report it out of the committee. Transgender people should not be singled out for the abuse that will be caused by the passage of this bill. Thank you for your consideration regarding this testimonial.

Sincerely,

Peter Zweber, Ph.D.