



OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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*The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.*

## **OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

### **Ohio Senate Government Oversight Committee**

#### **HB 68 – Opposition Testimony**

**December 6, 2023**

Good afternoon, Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and Members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee, my name is Scott DiMauro. I am a high school social studies teacher from Worthington with 16 years of classroom experience and currently serve as President of the Ohio Education Association (OEA). On behalf of the nearly 120,000 members of the OEA, thank you for the opportunity to provide opposition testimony on House Bill 68.

OEA has long stood for policies that are inclusive of students regardless of race, class, gender, or identity. Athletics and other extracurricular programs provide an important opportunity for all students to learn, grow, and meet their full potential.

HB 68 creates unnecessary regulations that limit student participation on high school and collegiate athletic teams. These proposed regulations conflict with existing policies adopted by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and the National College Athletic Association (NCAA). Further, these regulations would discriminate against some students by establishing an absolute prohibition on transgender female participation on teams designated only for female participants.

Current OHSAA policy allows transgender female participation on a female-designated sports team under certain conditions but does not have an absolute bar on participation for these students. The NCAA policy calls for transgender student-athlete participation policies to be determined by the national governing body of each sport.

OEA recommends the Ohio General Assembly defer to the governing bodies of student athletics and not pass legislation with unnecessary regulations that limit student participation. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions related to OEA's position on this bill.

