

Opponent Testimony for OH House Bill 68
Senate Government Oversight Committee
December 6, 2023

Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. I am a former student athlete, current Youth Soccer coach, and mother from Mansfield, Ohio. I am here to express concern that our elected officials are even considering this Bill which treats LGBTQ children as less than, not worthy of the same benefits as non-LGBTQ children are given. While I oppose the entirety of this bill, I'm personally affronted by the portion affecting student athletes and the teams of which they are members.

I was the catcher for my High School's softball team for four wonderful years. I really only remember the result of one game (since I was at bat with two outs at the bottom of the seventh inning with a runner on Third), but I do remember the joy of playing ball, the love of my team, and the appreciation of the crowd. Softball was training for real life. The team learned about the sport, but we really learned how to work together and empathize with each other, achieving a goal or maybe falling a bit short. I take this view now as I coach 9 year-olds on the soccer field. We're not there to win, although winning feels good. We're there to work together and support each other, just as we do in our families and in our careers throughout adulthood.

Barring LGBTQ, particularly Trans, children from being a part of a team of their peers not only hurts them, preventing them from experiencing the joys and sorrows of a team, but it also hurts all of their peers who are not learning about the complexity of human experience. These kids will need to learn how to be a part of the greater "team" in their community, but they will not have the benefit of learning on the field, playing, having fun, in a safe environment.

The world and all the complexities of people exist and by burying our heads in the sand and denying that Trans children exist we are hurting all children in Ohio, setting them up with a disadvantage before they even go out into the world.

Please consider the children's futures and think about how great Ohio would be if we were all allowed to be on the same team.

Thank you. I'm happy to answer any questions.

C. Holloway