



Congregational Resource - Ohio House Bill 183

www.loveboldly.net/hb183

LOVEboldly's Stance - OPPOSED

Summary

HB183 would restrict access to bathrooms, locker rooms, and other typically gendered spaces (including accommodations on overnight trips) for students, faculty, and staff in K-12 and higher education. The bill requires people to use the facility corresponding to the sex listed on their original birth certificate. It provides no clear plan for enforcement.

Status of the Bill (as of April 8, 2024)

HB183 was introduced in the House on May 23, 2023, and assigned to the House Higher Education Committee on June 7, 2023. The Committee heard opponent testimony on October 11, 2023, proponent testimony on October 18, 2023, and interested party testimony on December 6, 2023. On January 10, 2024, a new substitute bill was introduced by the sponsors of HB183 which offered no substantive changes and in fact made the bill worse. A new hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, April 10, at 10:30am, with a vote very likely.

Take Action

1. Call and email members of the House Higher Education Committee (<https://ohiohouse.gov/committees/higher-education>). Urge them to vote the bill down in committee and to not send it to the House floor.
2. Call and email your representative. Tell them to vote **NO** on HB183.

Don't know who your senator or representative is? Find out at www.legislature.ohio.gov (search under "Who represents me?").

3. Consider attending the hearing. We do not believe that any further testimony will be considered.

Congregational Action*

1. Members of your congregation can participate in all the actions above.
2. Donate supplies to Trans Allies of Ohio (<https://transalliesohio.org>) for their community care rooms. During almost every hearing for bills that will impact the LGBTQIA+ community, Trans Allies of Ohio holds safer space for rest and fellowship. They would appreciate the support of congregations for food, beverage, and other items to continue making these spaces affirming of all people.
3. If your congregation is not yet a Church Partner with LOVEboldly or member of the Remnant Coalition, consider engaging in one of these ways (www.loveboldly.net)
4. Encourage your members to donate to LOVEboldly (www.loveboldly.net/donate) or one of our strategic partners including Equality Ohio, TransOhio, Trans Allies of Ohio, Honesty for Ohio Education, Faith in Public Life, and the ACLU of Ohio.

More Information and Contact

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*Legal Stuff

We're not lawyers and nothing we say should be taken as legal advice. Please consult your congregational and denominational legal counsel for legal advice. That said, we know congregations sometimes wonder what they can and cannot do when it comes to advocacy.

Like LOVEboldly, most churches are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and as such are tax exempt.

DO - Churches and other 501(c)(3) nonprofits can engage in issue-based advocacy. This means we can publicly support or oppose policies, bills, regulations, and other governmental actions. In most cases our support or opposition is in the form of educating people and then arguing why people should support or oppose a particular issue.

DON'T - Churches and other 501(c)(3) organizations cannot engage in partisan politics. We can neither endorse particular politicians nor can we lobby politicians or government officials. We can hold nonpartisan events such as a voter registration drive. We all have examples of churches behaving badly: pastors endorsing candidates from the pulpit, sermons demonizing other candidates, and many more. Don't model their behavior.