



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Statewide Coalition Says Anti-Trans Legislation Blocks Progress on Ending Sexual Violence in Ohio**

Thursday, the House voted to pass a bill that would ban transgender athletes from women's and girls' sports at federally funded schools and educational institutions. Despite not being expected to pass the Senate, this vote still causes harm to trans people and highlights a trend of anti-trans legislation across the US, including in Ohio. Our state currently has three bills that limit the lives of trans people, leading to harm to trans individuals and the trans community.

A record number of anti-trans legislation is being introduced across the country, with 360 active bills, according to [TransLegislation.com](https://www.translegislation.com).

Many of these bills would prohibit transgender women and girls from playing on sports teams consistent with their gender identity; seek to amend federal laws regarding how sex is defined; limit topics and characters in books in schools; and more.

In Ohio, there are three current bills that put the trans community at risk: [OH HB6](#), to [Enact the Save Women's Sports Act](#); [OH HB68](#), to [Enact Ohio Saving Adolescents from Experimentation \(SAFE\) Act](#); and [OH HB8](#), to [Enact the Parents' Bill of Rights](#).

Despite naming these bills in a way that calls for safety, these laws would actually cause further harm to a community that already faces increased levels of violence. As Ohio's federally recognized anti-sexual violence coalition, we would like to remind community members that all violence is connected. Any time someone is harmed, there is either a direct or indirect connection to sexual violence. We must recognize that in most situations, violence is connected to structural inequality and oppression, such as that created by our country and state's laws.

Systemic harm of trans people and others in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community is rooted in the same types of oppression that fuels sexual violence. We can't expect to end sexual violence while these other forms of violence continue to exist. They all feed into each other and are about power and control over others.

We demand a safer Ohio for all of our community members, including trans people.

We are extremely concerned that this legislation will increase violence against trans people and even among those who aren't trans due to the acceptance of hatred and harm.

This will inevitably hinder our ability to truly support survivors of sexual violence in our state and to move towards ending sexual violence as well. We ask you to imagine, invest, and fund healthy communities, including supporting trans community members.

We invite interested community members to research and follow this legislation and to speak to lawmakers about what kind of Ohio you want to live in.

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*As Ohio's statewide coalition, OAESV uses an anti-oppression lens to advocate for comprehensive responses and rape crisis services for survivors and to empower communities to prevent sexual violence.*