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Beth Liston, MD PhD
State Representative, 21st District

Committees

Health
Families, Aging, and Human
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Ways and Means
Behavioral Health and Recovery
Supports

Dear Superintendent,

As we start the 2022-2023 school year, I want to take a moment to thank you for all the work you do on behalf of children in Ohio. Your tireless efforts towards excellence in education have lasting impact now and for generations to come. I know how difficult it has been over the last few years.

I also wanted to make sure you are aware of a bill that passed the Ohio House in June and the dangers it poses to students across the state. House Bill 151, as amended, would require any child playing interscholastic sports to prove their sex through invasive exams and tests. This bill requires children to undergo internal and external genital exams as well as expensive blood tests in response to any request or challenge suggesting their genitalia may not match expectations. As you can imagine, pediatricians across Ohio have been speaking out about the trauma such a policy would cause. This type of exam goes well beyond what is required by a normal sport's physical and many doctors have indicated they would refuse to perform these mandated genital inspections.

I encourage you to consider the impact such a law would have on your district, and the students for whom you work so tirelessly. While this bill has not yet become law, the Ohio Senate has an identical bill currently in committee and has indicated it is likely to pass a version of this policy by the end of this year. I encourage you to discuss this with your district's State Representative and State Senator and to consider plans to mitigate the harmful impacts of this bill.

Please reach out to my office if you have questions. I hope the 2022-2023 academic year starts of well.

Beth Liston MD, PhD
State Representative
Ohio House, District 21