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Ohio House passes ban on minor gender-affirming care, trans athletes in girls' sports

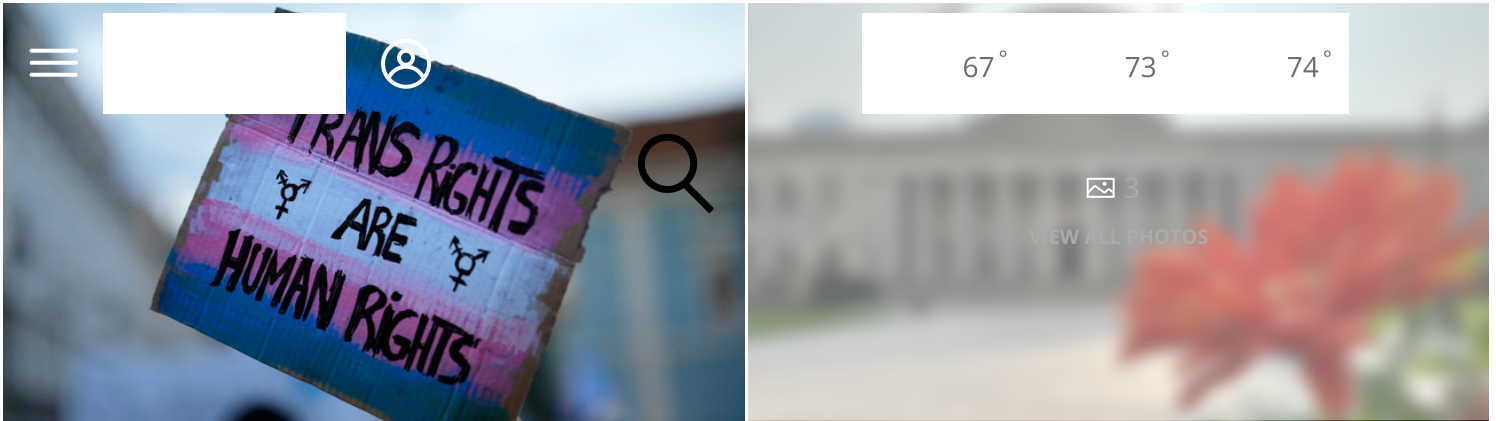
by WSYX Staff

Wed, June 21st 2023, 7:24 AM PDT



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FILE - Sign at the Ohio Statehouse protesting a measure to restrict Ohio transgender and gay youth. June 14, 2023. (WSYX)



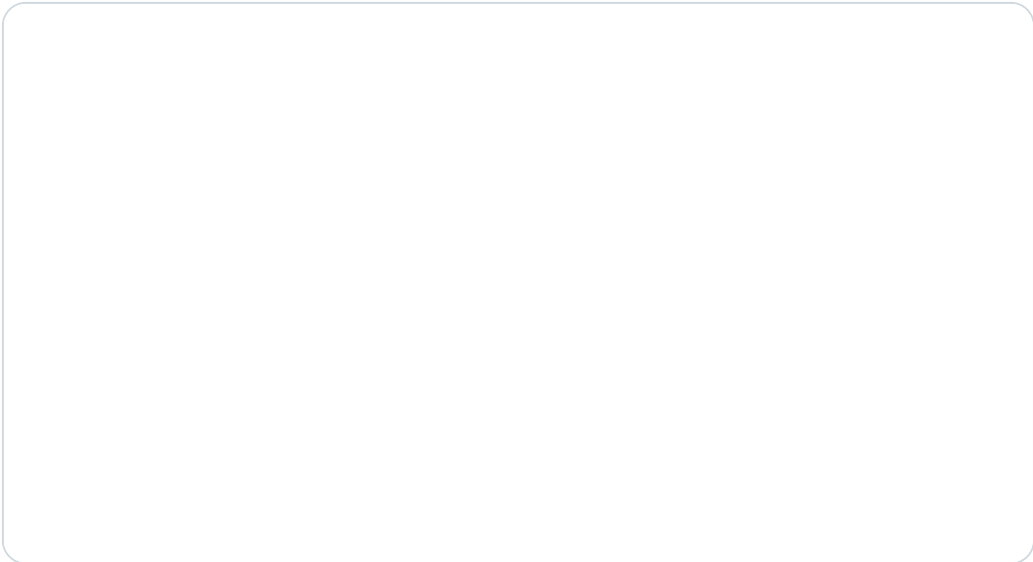
COLUMBUS, Ohio (WSYX) — The Ohio House passed a [bill](#) making it illegal for minors to take puberty blockers, have gender reassignment surgery, and barring [transgender athletes from female-only sports](#).

The Saving Adolescents From Experimentation Act passed 64-28. It's the [second anti-LGBT](#) measure passed by the House Wednesday.



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BREAKING: Ohio House passes ban on juvenile gender transition care, barring transgender females from girls and women's sports, 64-28



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Lawmakers in the House also passed a bill that would require public schools in Ohio to notify parents when they're going to be teaching about sexuality or when their child requests recognition for a new gender identity.

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Transgender advocates have been protesting the SAFE Act since day one, including the parent of one local transgender student.

ALSO | 'One big terrible mega-bill' would restrict Ohio transgender, gay youth

"It's frustrating and hard as a parent to recognize that my child is being used as a cultural wedge issue," Melissa McLaren said. "It's really hard to understand why our elected officials are placing power grabs on the backs of children like mine, and families like mine. It's disheartening, and we love Ohio. This is our home and it's hard to see the state of Ohio attacking families like mine."

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House Dem leader Allison Russo's statement comes seconds later: "It's shameful that, in the middle of Pride Month, Republicans are passing multiple bills targeting our LGBTQ+ children and their families"

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There are two house bills in play here. House Bill 68 would make it illegal for transgender minors to take puberty blockers or hormones and prohibit gender reassignment surgery. And House Bill 8 would require schools to notify parents before any classroom conversations about gender identity or sexual orientation.

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This bill, introduced by Rep. Gary Click -- from Vickery, in the 1st district -- would ban medical treatments transgender children can receive. It was the first time it advanced past committee.

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ABC 6 tried to speak with Click on camera but he only released a statement instead, saying in part that "there are no long-term studies that support these radical procedures, and we know that families have suffered much harm."

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If Gov. Mike DeWine signs it into law, doctors who violate it could lose their licenses. And transgender children currently on hormones would have to stop taking them.

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