

CaraConference 2021

Building Health Equity

September 13–17



**positively changing lives
in the fight against HIV/AIDS**

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CaraConference 2021

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can join the movement
to MODERNIZE HIV
laws in Ohio.



CaraConference 2021

Thursday, September 16: Panel Discussion

How to Advocate for Policy Change

Introduction: Adam Reilly | Moderator: William Booth

Panelists: Alana Jochum, Ali Trianfo and Mike Weir, MPH

BUILDING
HEALTH EQUITY

Equality Ohio

Statewide Advocacy 101



Who is Equality Ohio?

Equality Ohio advocates and educates and to achieve fair treatment and equal opportunity for all Ohioans regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. We do this through:

- Statehouse and Agency advocacy
 - Municipal policy work
 - Legal Clinic
 - Public Education Programming

We are always here as a resource! You can ask us anything in a judgement-free space because we are here to help you.

HB61 & SB132: Transgender Athlete Bans

The “Save Women’s Sports Act” Summary:

- Bans youth athletes (K -12, State Institutions of Higher Ed.) from playing on the team that aligns with their gender identity rather than their sex assigned at birth.
- Directly attacks Ohio High School Athletic Association and NCAA’s policies on providing an inclusive environment for transgender athletes.
- Sponsors: Reps. Jena Powell & Reggie Stoltzfus, Senator Kristina Roegner

What are the current OHSAA policies?

- In the state of Ohio , transgender girls can play on a girls team if they show they have completed at least one year of hormone replacement therapy.
- **In fact, OHSAA has made just 48 transgender rulings in the past 5 years, including 11 transgender female approvals.** The OHSAA denied two students because they didn’t supply all the necessary paperwork and medical information to allow officials to make an informed decision.

The Ohio Legislature 101

Ohio is currently in its 134th legislative session. Each session lasts two years (each state is different) and aides/staff are around all year long.

There are two chambers: The House and Senate.

- You can start to better understand the legislative process by first finding your lawmakers. You can [find your Ohio Senator and Representative here](#):
- Representatives and Senators *sponsor* bills in both chambers, and often introduce the same bill on both sides to move it forward (companion bills).
 - For example: HB (House Bill) 61 and SB (Senate Bill) 132 are the same bill in different chambers.



The Ohio Legislature 101

Next, you can get an idea of what standing committees there are and what committee the bill you're interested in is currently in.

- [House](#)
- [Senate](#)

What is a standing committee?

A committee is a key part of the legislative process where lawmakers can discuss, amend, and vote on a bill in a smaller setting before it's voted through the legislature.

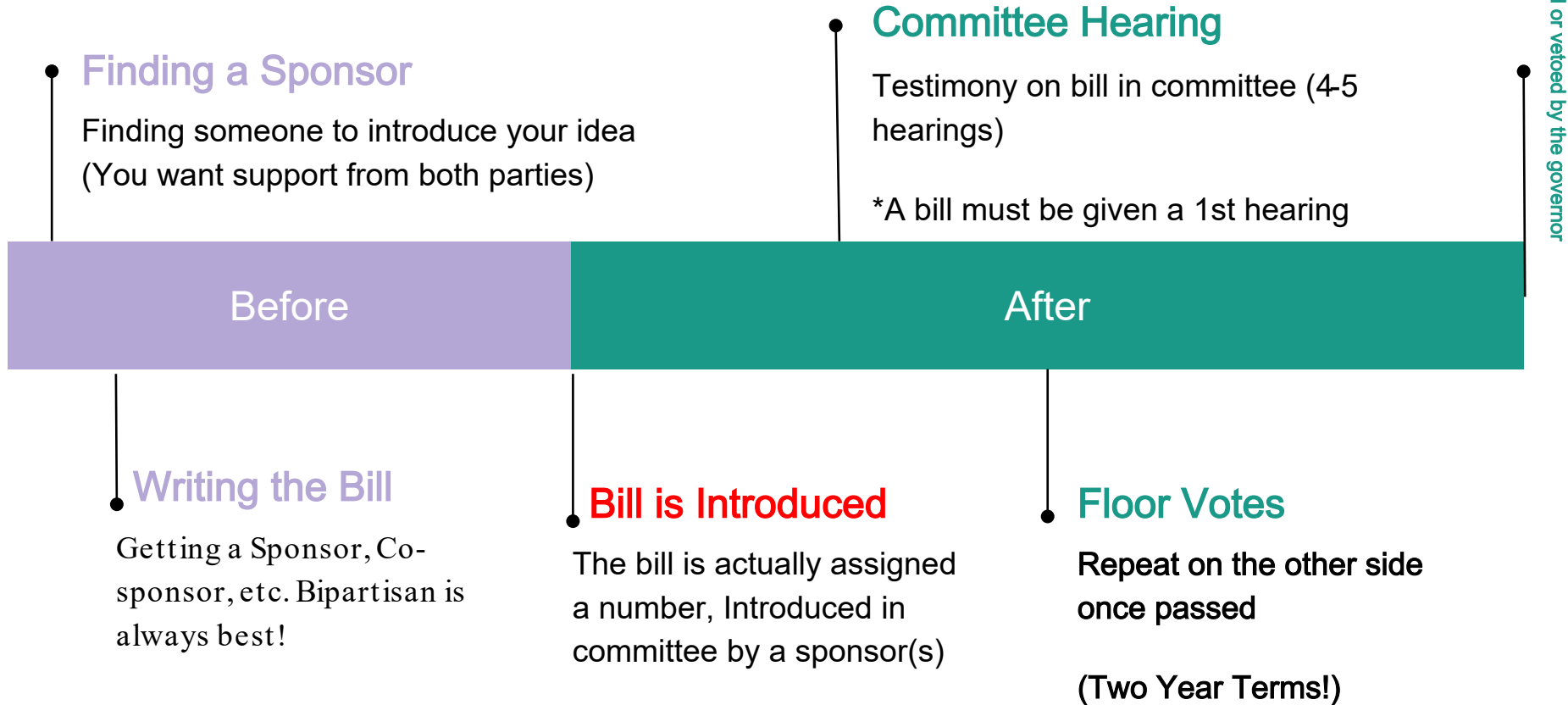
Your involvement is crucial throughout this process, but the majority of public involvement happens when a bill is in committee and in independent outreach from constituents. **You can help with both of these parts.**

For example: HB61 and SB132 are both assigned to committees:

[House Primary and Secondary Education](#)

[Senate Workforce and Higher Education](#)

How the Timeline Works:



What You Can Do:

You have a unique perspective on this issue. Sharing your story will make a real difference!

Everyone is different. One of these methods might fit best for you, but **Everyone's contribution to this movement matters.**

There are lots of ways to get involved:

- Writing Personal Testimony
- Writing an Opinion Piece or LTE
- Speaking to Your Lawmaker

Reach out to us to help you get started!

Questions?

Connect with your panelists today!

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