

Feb. 22, 2022

I strongly oppose HB 0757: Education – Interscholastic and Intramural Teams and Sports – Designation Based on Biological Sex (Save Women’s Sports Act).

This law is based on outdated science and bad faith arguments. This law is not about fairness or equality, or it would be inclusive of *all* girls (cisgender and transgender alike). This is little evidence that transgender girl athletes are out-competing cisgender girl athletes. For example, the Associated Press found “only a few times” transgender athletes have been “an issue among the hundreds of thousands of American teenagers who play high school sports.” See: <https://apnews.com/article/lawmakers-unable-to-cite-local-trans-girls-sports-914a982545e943ecc1e265e8c41042e7> According to Vox, the “National Collegiate Athletic Association, the International Olympic Committee, and other amateur and professional sports leagues have long had policies that allow trans athletes to compete according to their gender identity.” <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/fair-play/> <https://www.vox.com/the-highlight/22423132/anti-transgender-bills-women-sports-fairness>

What this law *will* do is prevent transgender girls from wanting to become student athletes. Participating in school sports can provide a number of positive benefits for students, including increased self-esteem and self-confidence. Transgender youth are much more likely to experience negative situations in school due to transphobia, such as a harassment and assault. Transgender youth should play on the team(s) that correlates to their gender identity.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie York". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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