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House Bill #0757 Education – Interscholastic and Intramural Teams and Sports – Designation Based on Biological
Sex

“Save Women’s Sports Act”

February 22, 2022

Position: Unfavorable

Thank you for taking the time and consideration when looking at this testimony in preparation for the hearing on this HB0757. As a person who identifies as part of the trans community, with lived experience growing up being (mis)gendered as girl/woman, I can speak to the experiences of presenting to the world as woman and as man. To say this bill is reprehensible is to put kindly the devastating impacts and implications of the language and the call to action this bill is requesting you to consider. Under the guise of protection of women, this bill in fact strips away the few rights that transwomen and gender non-binary people who present to the community in more feminine ways have available to them.

With this bill in effect, we are allowing adults and grown people the freedom to question anyone they perceive to not fit into the binary construct of what they determine a female body to look like. The determination to support the “evidence” of someone being labeled as male or female would be enforced through invasive and unethical practices, unnecessary medical procedures, and searching a person’s detailed medical history to preclude them from being able to participate in a sport that promotes their physical and emotional wellbeing.

As a person, whose profession has me in contact with young people and youth, I can speak to the collective calls to privacy and body autonomy that this bill will strip away in its attempt to make sports inaccessible an entire group of people. When the attempt to liberate some comes at the expense of other persons’ rights, we become oppressors and dehumanizers. This bill will make it easier for adults to prey on children/youth/young adult trans women, gender non-binary individuals, and trans men based on perceived identities and experiences rather than “biological” sex as has been named in the bill. The justifications used in this bill offer “evidence” rooted in studies which conducted no measurement of the intersex community. This highlights the gaps and increase risk for harm to these communities and the women this bill intends to “save”.

When we consider bills like this, we often leave out an entire population of people who have a combination of reproductive sex organs, hormones, and chromosomes differing from the binary cisgender “evidence” presented in this bill. There is no way to “measure” whether someone has a biological makeup that enhances their ability to perform in sports without increasing barriers, reducing body autonomy, and removing rights to privacy and safety for children, youth, and young adults seeking to enhance their health through playing sports in school.

Finally, the area of this bill that is extremely damaging in the long term, is the protections it would allow for the agencies and people who violate the rights of these young people. The way the bill is worded would have people thinking the protections offered are to support the young cisgender women who want to play sports, but in reality, they are offering protections to those agencies and governing bodies that want to invade the bodies and cause harm to our youth and children without an ability to hold these entities accountable to their actions.

For these reasons, I urge an unfavorable report on this Bill # HB 0575.

For more information, contact Manuel Rodriguez, LGBTQ+ Services Navigator at manuel.a.rodrig@outlook.com