

Girls deserve fair and safe sports. A male does not earn the right to be regarded as female just because he has an internal feeling that he is female. Athletes compete using their bodies, and males have advantages due to their biology. Males have higher bone density, which is a safety issue for female athletes.

Historically only 1 in 10,000 young people felt they were transgender, and only about 1 in 50,000 identified that way as adults. For most students, the perception that they are “in the wrong body” will pass as they undergo puberty. Gender dysphoria is a diagnosable mental condition with an entire chapter in the DSM-5, starting on page 511. Having a diagnosable mental condition does not entitle males to play on females’ sports teams. Even if you believe it is an “identity” and ignore the fact it is a diagnosable mental condition, this belief doesn’t entitle males to join female teams.

Please familiarize yourself with the scientific literature on this issue presented here:

<https://transparencyineducation.net/proposed-gender-policy-445/>

<https://cass.independent-review.uk/home/publications/final-report/>

We can recognize that some (historically rare) students will identify as transgender as adults and ensure safe and fair competitions for girls. Those two ideas are not in conflict. Please adopt a scientifically accurate and fair approach to sports by supporting HB156.

Thank you!

Tom Neumark