



Messaging Resource: Protecting the Rights of Transgender Young People in Sports

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- This bill would create rules around participation for student athletes that disrespect the identity and needs of transgender young people.
- We are extremely concerned about a bill that is specifically attacking transgender young people without ever even acknowledging or respecting that people may not fit neatly into other’s assumptions of their gender.
- This bill is not only incredibly disrespectful of transgender students, but also intersex students whose anatomy and hormone levels may not match rigid definitions of male and female.
- The intent of this bill is to not fairness or equal participation or any lofty goal. The intent is to take away the ability of transgender students to fully participate in and enjoy the benefits of participating in youth sports programs.
- The ability to fully be part of your school and to be able to be in a club or join a team is critical for the wellbeing of transgender students.
- Providing equal opportunities in all aspects of school programming is a core value in education. This bill uses a warped definition of fairness, but is certainly not living up to that value.
- Studies have shown that having the opportunity to participate in sports means students have improved grades, greater homework completion, higher educational and occupational aspirations, and improved self-esteem. We should not take that away from transgender young people who may already face additional barriers to feeling like they belong and are more likely to be bullied and feel isolated from their peers.
- Students of color already face inequitable opportunities that lead to inequitable lifelong outcomes. This gap has been a long-standing source of concern as differences in test scores—particularly in math, reading, and graduation rates—are found at state and national levels. We should do more to help students, not create even more difficulty for young people struggling at the intersection of racism and transphobia.
- Proponents will claim that allowing transgender female athletes to compete in women’s sports gives them an unfair advantage in athletic competition. There is no research to

support the claim that allowing transgender athletes to play on the team that fits their gender identity will create a competitive imbalance.

- Transgender youth display the same variation in size, strength, and athletic ability as any other young people.
- Some proponents of this hateful bill will harp on locker rooms, but plenty of adolescents have trouble with body image and want some privacy. A restroom with a stall or a changing area with a curtain respects the needs of any student looking for privacy.
- We need to do more and do better to support young people. That includes respecting their gender identity and providing the same chance to be on a team and feel a part of your school to help strengthen the ability to succeed and thrive.
- This bill is mean spirited and will make worse the challenges facing transgender young people.