

To the Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to LD 233, a bill that would ban transgender girls from participating in school sports aligned with their gender identity.

A testimony recently submitted by Mr. McClellan in support of this bill cited numerous misleading and harmful claims that must be addressed directly:

1. Misuse of Medical Guidelines:

The testimony referenced the DSM-5 to argue that being transgender is a mental illness. This is inaccurate. The *current* edition, **DSM-5-TR**, outlines *gender dysphoria* — not "transgenderism" — and only in the context of accessing appropriate, affirming care. Being transgender is not a disorder, and it is misleading to suggest otherwise.

2. Dangerous Misinformation About Suicide Risk:

A cited article claimed that gender-affirming surgeries increase suicide risk twelvefold. This comes from **newstarget.com**, a site known for disinformation and conspiracy theories. In reality, **peer-reviewed studies consistently show that access to gender-affirming care significantly reduces suicide rates, depression, and anxiety** among transgender individuals.

3. Misleading Anecdotes:

The testimony used an injury during a volleyball match to suggest that trans girls are a danger in sports. This case is poorly documented and misrepresented — and regardless, public policy should not be based on isolated, sensationalized anecdotes. It should be guided by data, fairness, and compassion.

4. Misrepresentation of Public Opinion:

The claim that "65–80%" of Americans support this type of legislation is unsubstantiated and not backed by any cited source. Numerous recent surveys show **growing public support for trans rights**, particularly among younger generations and independent voters.

5. No One is Asking for 'Special Rights':

Trans youth are not asking for special treatment. They are asking to be treated *the same* as their peers: to participate in school life, to feel safe, and to be respected for who they are.

This bill does nothing to protect girls. What it *does* is target and isolate a tiny, vulnerable population of students, fueling stigma, anxiety, and real-world harm — all under the false flag of "fairness."

You have a responsibility to lead with reason, not rhetoric. With compassion, not conspiracy. Please oppose LD 233.

Sincerely,

Jon McQuarrie

Linneus