

Rob Kipp
Presque Isle
LD 1134

Do not advance this legislation, which is anti-trans bigotry. Trans women are not some inherent threat to their cis schoolmates, neither to safety nor to the fairness of sports. First of all, forcing trans students to use the incorrect restrooms/etc. presents a real danger *to them*. There are many documented cases of trans people being threatened or outright assaulted when using restrooms matching their sex assigned at birth; *that* causes infinitely more disruption than using the correct restroom, which trans people have done for generations without public outcry (until now). This should go without saying, but trans people are not more likely to commit assault than cis people, and the government should not enact legislation guided by stigma. And banning trans women from sports is also barely-disguised sexism: taking as given that people born with penises are inherently better at sports, which is far from given. Besides, in elite sports leagues (i.e. those where any biological advantages might be truly meaningful) there are already rules in place regarding e.g. how long a trans person must have taken hormones before competing with their cis counterparts. It is not the government's place to weigh in here, especially when its motivation is nothing more than performative cruelty against a minority. And speaking of overreach, what is the enforcement mechanism here: genital inspections for anyone - including any child - accused of being trans (whether they indeed are, or are instead cis women & girls who don't conform to the accuser's gender notions, or are just someone whose genitals the accuser wants to inspect)? It is honestly embarrassing and infuriating that any level of my government is wasting its time considering this moral panic nonsense when there are so many actual problems to solve, including in the realm of women's rights. Leave trans people alone.