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May 8, 2025

I am a woman by birth who identifies as a woman and a mother and I oppose the bills before the Committee today. I have two daughters and I worry constantly about men. I walk my 13-year old home from the bus. I have a safety talk I give them before sleepovers at homes where men or boys will be present.

But transgender women are not men. Anyone identifying as male wouldn't put himself through the ridicule he would face, posing as female, just to gain an athletic advantage or do something inappropriate.

If size is the concern, then we should implement size limitations for sports and make the sports unisex. Expand rather than ban. If you don't want your daughter playing sports with a boy, why would you want her playing sports with only boys or using a male restroom if she is transgender? Transgender women and girls are just as vulnerable because of their physical form as those of us deemed "real women" by our mainstream society.

Let children be children. Let them figure out what names they prefer and which pronouns and clothes feel right. Identity is very personal and is everything.

Transgender is not a choice; there is science behind it. It's easy to reduce people to the status of Other. It dehumanizes them and history shows that we make that mistake again and again. Don't become another example of how we choose ignorance over compassion. Protect the transgender citizens of our state as you would protect any other citizen under your care. Thank you.