

Sarah Shepro
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LD 233

Good morning honorable members of the Judiciary committee,

I'm writing to strongly oppose LD 233 and the other antri-trans bills being heard by the committee today. These bills are nothing more than an unjustified attempt to systematically erase trans people.

Many supporters of excluding trans girls and women from female sports teams believe that trans girls and women have an inherent advantage on the playing field because they may have elevated levels of testosterone. However, athletic advantage or disadvantage isn't determined solely by gender - there are many genetic traits that may cause one athlete to have an advantage or disadvantage over another. For example, some girls are taller than others. It's also worth noting that cisgender women have testosterone, and the levels vary from person to person.

Some supporters of these types of policies also believe that trans girls and women present a physical threat to cisgender girls and women. This is just untrue, there's no evidence to support that a trans girl is inherently stronger or otherwise more threatening than a cisgender girl. There is also nothing that suggests that trans girls and women are inherently violent.

Blanket sports ban bills are not based on evidence and do not address the very real barriers that all girls and womens face in sports, such as inequitable facilities and abusive coaches. These types of bans also encourage unnecessary surveillance on schools, parents, and children; prompting invasive questioning and scrutiny that will cause fear, distrust, and confusion.

Excluding trans girls and women for participating in teams that align with their gender identity excludes them from the proven emotional, mental, social, and physical benefits associated with sports. At the same time, this exclusion will cause even more harm to trans kids, who are already more likely to experience bullying, distress, and increased risk of self-harm or suicide. Trans kids deserve to grow up, with the same opportunities as other children.

To close, I want to reiterate that trans kids are just that - kids. They are kids who want to participate in school sports, and who deserve to feel at home in their bodies and their schools.

Thank you,
Sarah