

OPPOSE HOUSE BILL 500

House Bill 500 would prevent student athletes from participating in sports according to their authentic gender identity, a departure from current guiding policies from the Idaho High School Activities Association. This bill aims to solve a problem that does not exist, while codifying discrimination against transgender athletes.

Transgender people of all ages have been participating in Idaho sports consistent with their gender at all levels for years, and no dominance by trans athletes has been observed or documented. Athletic success is based on many disparate factors that vary sport to sport, and being transgender does not give girls who are trans an inherent advantage over girls who are not.

Participating in sports results in positive outcomes for all students—better grades, greater homework completion, higher educational and occupational aspirations, and improved self-esteem. Why would we prevent transgender students from being a part of the team?

NO DATA TO SUPPORT PROBLEMS WITH TRANSGENDER ATHLETES

- There is simply no data to back up the concerns that proponents of these bills claim to have. A small percentage (less than [0.6%](#)) of U.S. adults identify as transgender, and not all of them are interested in playing sports, and even fewer of them are elite level.
- Elite athletes often do have a competitive advantage as a result of physical characteristics, like above-average heart or lung capacity. Transgender people do not gain an inherent competitive advantage in sports by virtue of transition.
- Because allowing trans girls to compete in girls' sports doesn't hurt anyone, advocates for women and girls in sports such as the National Women's Law Center, the Women's Sports Foundation, Women Leaders in College Sports, and others support trans-inclusive policies and oppose efforts to exclude transgender students from participating in sports.
- Allowing trans athletes to compete doesn't let boys or men pretend to be transgender just to compete in the girls' or women's category.
- There are real issues with gender parity in sports when it comes to funding, resources, pay equity, and more. Promoting baseless fears about trans athletes does nothing to address those real problems.

TRANSGENDER ATHLETES ARE WIDELY ACCEPTED

- At the high school level, 20 states, including Idaho, already allow trans kids to compete in sports consistent with their gender identity.

- Several major national sporting institutions, including the Olympics, have adopted policies allowing transgender athletes to participate in sports consistent with their gender identity, designed to guarantee there is no competitive advantage conferred by transition.
- Title IX was about opening up opportunities for people to be able to benefit from true, meaningful opportunities to participate in sports. Allowing transgender people to participate in sports doesn't change that, it is part of that.

A LAWSUIT WAITING TO HAPPEN

- This bill would violate basic privacy rights by requiring educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth, some of whom may not be “out” as transgender to their peers or teachers. Transgender kids are entitled to privacy, yet this bill would mandate DNA analysis, hormone level monitoring, or even the sinister-sounding inspection of the youth's “internal and external reproductive anatomy”.
- Schools would be put in the position of potentially outing a transgender child—to the coach, athletic association, teammates, and even their parents—which the school is not legally or ethically authorized to do under medical privacy laws, professionalism standards, and other regulations.