

Dear Members of the General Assembly,

I am a resident of Providence. I am writing to you today to **express my support for H5836**. I support this bill because if every high school offered a yearlong ethnic studies course, we would have more engaged, more civic-minded students in Rhode Island.

I am **strongly opposed** to [H5842](#), or The Fairness in Women's Sports Act, which categorizes women by their biological Identity at birth rather than their gender identity for the purpose of organized sports. This is harmful and demeaning to trans people. I'm also **strongly opposed** to [H5837](#), which provides that any school teaching sexual education to students shall provide the sexual education curriculum to every parent or guardian of a student and the parent or legal guardian shall consent to the teaching of such sexual education curriculum. Teachers and districts should have autonomy over subject matter. Do we allow parents to opt out of math? Sexual education is critically important and should be determined by professional educators.

Sincerely,  
Kate Mendillo