

Hi Committee Chair McNamara and committee members,

I am writing to express my opposition for house bill H5842 which aims to define women by their biological identity at birth for the purpose of sports participation. The number of trans kids playing sports is a very small number, but they receive disproportionate attention and discourse due to the Christian nationalism rising up across the US. All kids deserve the ability to participate in sports and other activities at school regardless of their gender identity and should not be discriminated against. Biological sex is not as binary as it may seem, and this is backed up by science. Policing who is considered to be a "woman" in sports ends up hurting all women, as evidenced by athlete Imane Khelif, cisgender olympic boxer who was the subject of misinformation and public humiliation when the media speculated that she was transgender and therefore not a "woman". When we limit the definition of a woman to a narrow set of traits, we limit our freedom of expression and everyone is less free to be themselves. Another example is women being harrassed and reported for using the women's room in public places, simply because their gender expression didn't fit the expectation of femininity. This bill is being pushed as a policy that would protect women and girls, however, it does quite the opposite. I ask that you oppose this bill as it limits our personal freedoms and pushes us closer to fascism. Let all kids play!

Thank you for your consideration,

Carissa Koski

Resident of West Warwick, RI