

Dear Chair McNamara and Committee Members,

I submit this testimony in strong opposition to H 5842, known as the "Fairness in Women's Sports Act." This bill would cause significant harm to transgender students by unjustly excluding them from participating in sports alongside their peers. Schools and athletic programs are vital in fostering inclusive and supportive environments for LGBTQ+ youth, and it is crucial that educators, school staff, and coaches have the ability to fully support all students in achieving success. As a board certified child and adolescent psychiatrist practicing in RI for my entire career and a Distinguished Fellow of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, I am well aware of the impact of isolation and rejection that these vulnerable and marginalized youth are already facing. I implore you to make life easier and more fulfilling for these kids, not harder and hopeless.

Sincerely,

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