

My name is Joanne Rich and I live in Providence. I'm writing IN STRONG OPPOSITION HB 5842 regarding the definition of women.

I am a queer retired educator and know from personal experience, who has seen how incredibly detrimental it is to LGBTQ+ students to be erased by prejudicial policies like the one proposed in this legislation. LGBTQ+ students self-harm and attempt/commit suicide at enormously higher rates and it is in a large part due to this sort of targeting.

This legislation is not about fairness in sports, but actually about controlling women. You'll notice that there is no requirement for definition of man.

Middle and High School sports should be about team building, fun, fostering personal growth and excellence, and not about the genitals of someone else on the field.

Thank you,
Joanne Rich