



TWP Testimony in opposition to House Bill 5842

April 23, 2025

Dear Chair and members of the House Education Committee:

I write today in opposition to H5842, the oxymoronically entitled “Fairness in Women’s Sports Act”. As members know, a small but vocal minority of folks in RI are focused on restricting the rights of the LGBTQ+ community, this bill being yet another example of those efforts. The current guidelines that support participation based on gender have served the RI sports community very well and in particular supported the very small minority of transgendered athletes. This bill does not reflect the will of Rhode Islanders nor the concerns of the very student athletes it purports to assist. A cursory reading of the bill shows that it is primarily designed to allow for civil litigation by ‘aggrieved’ parties, which has very little bearing on sports of any type and is unrelated to fairness in any way. Impairing student participation in athletics is misguided and mean. Our collective focus needs to remain on providing as much opportunity to as many Rhode Islanders as possible. I urge you to vote no on this bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jocelyn Foye, *Executive Director*
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