



BARBARA DITTRICH

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 38th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

May 26, 2021

Assembly Committee on Education

RE: Rep. Dittrich Testimony on AB 196 - designating athletic sports and teams operated or sponsored by public schools or private schools participating in a parental choice program based on the sex of the participants.

Good Morning Committee Chair Thiesfeldt and members of the Assembly Committee on Education. I appreciate the fact that despite the anti-women indications of our governor and power brokers in sports, today Wisconsin women's voices will be heard. I decided to propose the "Protecting Women in Sports Act" bills, consisting of both K-12 and collegiate level athletics, because of the pleadings of parents whose daughters were competing in sports in my district. As I quickly learned when I agreed to be their champion in the legislature, there is a whole army of women in Wisconsin sports that are fed up with giving their titles and awards to those who were born biological males. In fact, there are women who wanted to testify today who were fearful to come before this committee because they have been harassed and shamed into silence by the media, lawmakers, the transgender community and even by their employers. These women have worked hard and earned their accolades in their own right, and they deserve to have their Title IX rights protected.

On June 23, 1972, Title IX became ensconced in federal civil rights law. That law was historic in its provisions honoring and protecting the abilities and achievements of women in their own divisions in competitive sports. Prior to that time, females were not offered the opportunities to compete in anything other than informal activities, lacking equipment, resources, and scholarships. Since its passage in my youth, Title IX has made a way for women to be inspired by the high achievement of other women. Educational and competitive opportunities have been opened up through scholarships and tournaments. The "Protecting Women in Sports Act" still allows for biological women to participate in male sports if there is no female equivalent offered at their school. I have heard concerns that overzealous sexists may use my bills to prevent women from being included. That is blatantly a violation of existing law as well as this legislation.

Now, in a fractured, well-meaning attempt at inclusion, women's achievements have once again been put at great risk of loss. By biological males being permitted to play on women's teams because of gender identity, biological females are once again losing opportunities at titles, scholarships, and even participation. Additionally, by ignoring the scientific, biological fact that

males have higher bone density, greater muscle mass, and often greater height, women are being put in physical danger of greater injury in competition.

The entire last year we repeatedly listened to the trope “follow the science.” Now the same people who have beat the general public over the head with that statement are denying the fact that an individual’s DNA does not change simply because they identify as a different gender. The fact remains that regardless of hormone therapy, males still have immutable characteristics that will never be changed by hormone therapy or gender reassignment surgery. It is these immutable characteristics that are robbing women of their achievements and awards.

The difference in achievement can vary depending on the sport. Nevertheless, women are finding their records smashed by biological males more often recording wins against female competitors. If you think it's not a problem that a transgender athlete beat the next closest female competitor's time in a race by 40 minutes, you are kidding yourself.

My fellow legislators, this is not a matter of transphobia, hate, or any of the false pejoratives thrown at women who wish to stand up for women in sports. This is a matter of equality and justice. Despite the fact I have transgender acquaintances whom I love does not mean that I need give them the right to steal my competitive accomplishments. That is known as overcompensation. This legislation is a matter of fairness based on facts that cannot be changed by the opinions of special interest groups. This legislation is not, as many have said, exclusionary and putting people into boxes. It is giving us an all category, ensuring that those who may not fit into their birth category have a home to foster their love of their sport with everyone.

A word of caution as I bring my testimony to a close here. The state of Connecticut now finds itself in litigation from students who have had their accomplishments stolen by athletes that were born biological males. To claim that this legislation is a solution in search of a problem or not a problem at all is to be completely naive. The challenges faced by our adult female athletes are already substantial and without this legislation, these challenges will trickle down to our student athletes in school sports. Furthermore, The Olympics are looking at admitting their first transgender athletes this summer. Olympic athletes are usually young men and women, school aged when they compete at this high level. To not affirmatively pass this bill would mean that we are putting our state in peril of further litigation regarding such matters.

As I said at the beginning of my testimony, parents and athletes throughout my district have devoted countless hours to supporting fair competition and athletic excellence have come to me asking, “Representative, what are you going to do about this?” Today all of you must answer this question. Today these women's voices will no longer be silenced by bullies and sexists. Today, whether we advance this bill or kill it, every one of us must be accountable to the public and answer are we support the women's rights ensconced in federal law or do we once again stand for male advantage in sports taking us back in history.

I want to thank the committee for their time in hearing this bill today. I am happy to answer your questions.

FAST FACTS SPORTS



The strongest 10% of females can only beat the bottom 10% of men in hand grip tests.²⁸ Hand grip is one of the most widely-used markers for **strength**.



Men are **faster** than women. In running, swimming, rowing, kayaking, and short distance and long distance, women's speed world records are all about 90% of their



men's speed world records.²⁹ Each year, **hundreds** of men easily beat the world's best time in the women's marathon.³⁰

Men have broader shoulders, and larger feet and hands, all of which grant an **advantage** in sports like volleyball, swimming, and basketball.



Male marathon runners have **lower body fat** percentages than female marathon runners.³¹



Men have a greater amount of fast twitch muscle fibers, which give men



explosive power.³²

On average, men are physically stronger than women.³³

Men have **66%** more upper-body muscle than women, and **50%** more lower-body muscle.³⁴



There is a **10%** performance gap between male and female athletes in most sports and it hasn't narrowed as women train harder.³⁵



Men have **higher hemoglobin levels**, allowing their body to oxygenate muscles more quickly and efficiently.³⁶



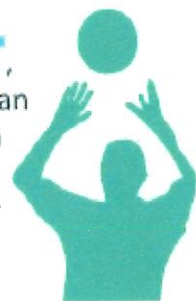
Men have **larger hearts and lungs**. A larger heart can pump more blood to the body and larger lungs allow for the body's tissues to receive more oxygen.



Men have bigger and stronger bones. A larger skeletal structure means men's bodies can hold **more muscle** and **larger bones** facilitate leverage.³⁷



Men are **taller**, giving them an advantage in sports like basketball or volleyball.



www.GenderResourceGuide.com



JANEL BRANDTJEN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 22ND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Thank you Chairman Thiesfeldt and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education for hearing AB 196. I understand this an emotional issue for many and I can assure you the legislation is not brought forward to diminish opportunities for anyone, but has been drafted in order to protect the opportunities we have for our girls at the high school and college level. In fact, the bill has been appropriately labeled as the “Protecting Women in Sports Act.” We as a society, have not only provided women with opportunities to participate in sports, but have embraced the concept. High school sports for girls has been very successful.

To the transgender community: Like the governor, we also see you, but we can also see the millions of female athletes that simply cannot compete with biological males in athletics. That was the entire point of girls’ sports to begin with. If we follow the science, the only conclusion we can reach is that males have a tremendous and insurmountable advantage in sports.

The 2019 girls state champion in the 100-meter dash would have finished 24th among the boys. The 200-meter girls champion wouldn’t have even qualified for the state meet and neither would the 400-meter champion...or the mile...or the two-mile. The reason for this discrepancy is purely biological. Females, on average, have just 52% of the upper-body strength and 66% of the lower-body strength of males. Women have 45% less muscle tissue in their biceps, 41% less muscle in their elbow flexors, 30% less in their thighs, and 25% less in their knees.

The science is real and the outcomes are harsh. Let's save women's sports.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janel Brandtjen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

State Representative Janel Brandtjen

STATE SENATOR KATHY BERNIER
TWENTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT



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Office: (608) 266-7511 • Toll Free: (888) 437-9436
Sen.Bernier@legis.wi.gov • www.SenatorBernier.com

From: Senator Kathy Bernier
To: The Assembly Committee on Education
Re: Testimony on Assembly Bill 196
Relating to: designating athletic sports and teams operated or sponsored by public schools or private schools participating in a parental choice program based on the sex of the participants.
Date: May 26, 2021

Thank you, Representative Thiesfeldt, for hearing one of two important bills that protect women's athletics in the state of Wisconsin.

The most attractive, alluring, fascinating thing about sports is that they pit competitors against another on a level playing field. We demand refs, umpires, and judges to be impartial and uniformly apply all rules of the sport. We expect athletes to follow the rules. So when a competitor rises above and shines, it inspires us all the more to know she did it while everyone else had an equal chance at glory.

When I was growing up, we hardly had any women's sports. It was not until 1971-1972 that my school district at least started up a basketball team for women. We have fought so long and hard to have equality in sports alongside men. We women now, finally, have our own equal playing field upon which we can compete. It would be such a shame to detract from all that we have accomplished now.

We need to remember that Title IX was about fairness, equality, and opportunity in sports for men and women alike.

This, at its heart, is a fairness issue. It is about being able to maintain that equal playing field. To deny that is to deny, at its core, the concept of sport to half of earth's population.

The women supporting these bills are brave, and continuing the fight that has been ongoing for so long. I stand wholeheartedly behind them as they protect our rights as women.

Thank you again for your committee's consideration today.



of Wisconsin School Personnel Administrators, the Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials, the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators, the Wisconsin Rural School Alliance, the Wisconsin Council for Administrators of Special Services, the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Wisconsin School Social Workers Association, the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, End Domestic Abuse WI, Fair Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the State Bar of Wisconsin, and Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin.

Finally, this bill likely violates federal law. Less than a year ago, a 6-3 U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Bostock v. Clayton County* that federal bans on sex discrimination must be read to prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity. In other words, where the federal government bans sex discrimination, it also bans discrimination against transgender people. While the *Bostock* ruling specifically applies to employment law, cases already working their way through the legal system will likely make clear that this logic applies to federal laws banning discrimination in school athletics as well.

In summary, Assembly Bill 196 is harmful, likely illegal, and not needed. Transgender girls are girls and transgender women are women, and they should have the same access to athletics as their peers.

Thank you for considering my views. If you have any questions about my position, please call me at (608) 266-1192.

Sincerely,

Mark Spreitzer
State Representative
45th Assembly District

45TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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To: Assembly Committee on Education
From: Representative Mark Spreitzer
Re: Assembly Bill 196
Date: May 26, 2021

Chair Thiesfeldt and committee members:

I am submitting written testimony today in opposition to Assembly Bill 196. I ask that my testimony be shared with all members of the committee, and be entered into the committee record for this bill.

This bill discriminates against transgender students in Wisconsin by denying transgender girls and women the opportunity to participate in girls' and women's sports. All young people should have the opportunity to participate in school-sponsored athletics consistent with their gender identity, and I am incredibly disappointed to see legislators perpetuating harmful stereotypes and spreading misinformation that harms student athletes and transgender youth.

I hope that you will pay careful attention to the testimony from those who are sharing their opposition to Assembly Bill 196 today. As legislators, we must listen to the experts who know first-hand how this bill will stigmatize and discriminate against kids. The introduction of this bill has already had an incredibly painful impact on transgender youth and their friends, families, and communities. Transgender girls are girls and transgender women are women. Rhetoric which suggests otherwise is harmful in itself. Exclusion of transgender girls and women from participating in school sports alongside their peers is also harmful, because it both singles out transgender youth and denies them the opportunities that organized sports and being part of a team can provide.

Assembly Bill 196 is also unnecessary. Both the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) already have policies related to participation of transgender youth in sports. Additionally, both the NCAA and the WIAA have recently affirmed their commitment to ensure that transgender youth have equal access to compete in sports. Athletes across our state already compete under existing policies that ensure a level playing field for all students, and banning transgender youth from participating in sports undermines those efforts.

I hope that you will also consider the registrations on this bill from the experts who have dedicated their lives to educating and protecting children. Dozens of groups -- including school administrators and educators, pediatricians, social workers, and the State Bar -- have registered against Assembly Bill 196. The full list of registrations against the bill is below.

Groups registered against AB 196/SB 322 include: the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association, the Wisconsin Education Association Council, the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators, the Association

45TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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WISCONSIN FAMILY ACTION
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 196
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2021
JULAIN K. APPLING, PRESIDENT

Thank you, Chairman Thiesfeldt and committee members, for the opportunity to testify on Assembly Bill 196. Wisconsin Family Action supports this bill.

The Protecting Women's Sports bill would protect girls' athletic opportunities by ensuring that only biological females can compete in female sports contests in our state's K-12 public schools and private schools participating in a Parental Choice Program. Without this bill, biological males, who have physiological advantages over girls, can unfairly compete for girls' athletic titles and opportunities—causing girls to lose out on opportunities meant for them.

Protect Women's Sports is based on the idea that sports should happen on a level playing field. Letting biological boys play in girls' sports is decidedly *unfair*.

Males have numerous physiological advantages that make it hard or impossible for even the top female athletes to compete against. That's why this bill ensures that only girls play in girls' sports.

Biological males have greater bone density, muscle mass, and cardiovascular capacity than girls. This remains true even after males have undergone hormone treatment. Often, their physiological advantages remain unchanged or decrease only slightly. Even when their advantages like muscle mass decrease slightly, this may be overcome through proper training.

The bill concept is supported by field experts: A similar bill (now law) in Idaho was sponsored by a former NCAA basketball player and Division I coach. As a coach and athlete, she brought this bill forward because she knew from experience that female athletes deserve fair competition—and that female athletes compete in their own divisions for a reason.

Female athletes deserve fair competition – and that means the chance to maintain women's categories distinct from co-ed or boy's/men's categories. As proof, consider that the world record for the men's 100-meter dash, set by Usain Bolt, is 9.58 seconds. The world record for women, set by Florence Griffith-Joyner, is 10.49 seconds. Females have never broken what's referred to as the 10 second barrier, while Olympic male finalists consistently break the barrier.

Further, In Connecticut, three female track stars are embroiled in a federal lawsuit over a policy that allowed biological boys to compete in girls' sports. While the girls were formerly top high school runners, two biological males entered as girls and took their athletic titles and opportunities to compete at a higher level. As a side note, in an action related to this case, the Department of Education clarified that the problematic policy was a violation of Title IX.

Allowing biological males to compete in girls' sports enables them to take elite opportunities meant specifically for biological girls.

Eligibility rules are a part of sports. Athletes must wear legal equipment, in-state competitors need to attend a school in that state, and there may be age or grade requirements. These rules make sure that athletes play in the right category, and

that they're not playing with an unfair advantage over their opponents. Likewise, it's only fair that to play in girls' sports, you should be a biological girl.

One of the world's top marathon runners, Paula Radcliffe, shared these sentiments when the Boston Marathon changed its rules to open qualifying times to biological men who identified as women. Radcliffe, who for several years held the female world record time for a marathon, noted that the Boston tournament is exceptionally difficult to get into as it is, and allowing biological men to take women's slots would make it even harder for women to enter.

Allowing males in female sports defeats the very purpose of Title IX: equal opportunity for biological women – and not letting biological boys steal girls' opportunities.

Women's sports is a hallmark achievement of Title IX. When males compete in women's sports, that threatens achievement opportunities for ~~Texas~~ women.

Title IX is a federal law that ensures that no one can be denied equal access educational opportunities on the basis of sex. Imagine a world where Simone Biles or Katie Ledecky were relegated to a recreation-only team, or a competitive team with far less opportunity than the comparable men's team.

Before the creation of Title IX, that was the world in which many women lived. Even for talented athletes, as women they wouldn't have the same opportunities. Their teams might lack funding, they might be relegated to a recreation-only team, or sometimes they might not even have a girls' team on which to play. According to the [Women's Sports Foundation](#): "Before Title IX, one in 27 girls played sports. Today that number is two in five." With the dawn of Title IX, women could finally compete on a level playing field against other women, with similar opportunities as men. Historically, Title IX has been used to advance women's opportunities. Now, some want to use Title IX as a justification to let biological men steal those very opportunities.

The concept of the bill is widely supported and is commonsense.

Protect Women's Sports aligns with public opinion. Recent [polling](#) shows that most Americans – including majorities of Republicans, Democrats, and independents – agree that female athletes should not be forced to compete against biological men. Thousands of Americans from around the nation sent letters to Idaho Governor Brad Little expressing their support for that state's law. Similar legislation is being considered in over 30 states with over 60 bills—showing real Americans very much care about this issue and want to preserve girls' sports for their daughters and granddaughters.

Wisconsin has the opportunity to do the right thing and protect girls' and women's sports. Now is the time to be fair to the girls and women who work hard to hone their athletic talents so they can excel in the sport or sports of their choice.

Thank you for your attention and thoughtful consideration of our position on this proposal. Wisconsin Family Action urges you to support this bill and recommend it for passage by the full Assembly.



National Association of Social Workers

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO ASSEMBLY BILL 196, THE TRANSGENDER ATHLETE BILL, BY MARC HERSTAND, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS, WISCONSIN CHAPTER

Chairperson Thiesfeldt and members of the Assembly Committee on Education.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify on Assembly Bill 196. We oppose this bill.

During the 2019-2020 legislative session, Speaker Robin Vos established a Task Force on Suicide Prevention, which held statewide hearings and developed legislation to help address the high suicide rate in Wisconsin. During the 2013-2014 legislative session, Speaker Vos established a Task Force on Mental Health. This Task Force also held statewide hearings and developed legislation to help address unmet mental health needs in Wisconsin.

These admirable efforts are being undermined by Assembly Bill 196, which seeks to ban transgender youth from participating in K-12 athletic sports.

Transgender young people face greatly increased rates of suicidality, depression and bullying compared to other children. More specifically an analysis of data from the 2017 and 2019 Youth Risk Behavior State and Local Survey showed that almost 44% of transgender youth, versus 16 percent of cisgender youth, reported considering suicide in the previous year. Almost 30% of transgender youth had made at least one suicide attempt compared with only 7.3% of cisgender youth. 59.4% of transgender youth compared to 33.5% of cisgender youth reported feeling sad or hopeless in the previous 12 months. 50% of transgender youth reported feeling bullied at school or electronically compared to 23% of cisgender youth. 34.6% of transgender youth reported that they skipped school due to safety concerns in the past 12 months compared to 9.3% of cisgender children and 28% of transgender youth compared to 7% of cisgender youth were threatened or injured with weapons on school property in the past 12 months.¹ These bills will further stigmatize these children and contribute to the already high levels of mental health distress and suicidality faced by transgender children.

In addition to the negative impact of Assembly Bill 196 on the mental health of transgender youth, there is absolutely no evidence that there is a problem in Wisconsin of transgender girls putting non-transgender girls at a disadvantage. In a state of 5.9 million people, advocates for this legislation have been unable to find more than a few cases where a transgender girl actually won a race. The reality is that very few transgender youth actually participate in athletics. And when cases are cited invariably these cases don't hold up to evidence. One example promoted by one of the legislative advocates for this bill, reported by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel in a front page article on May 11, 2021, is of a 28 year old transgender woman who won a 50 kilometer race a year ago. The non-transgender woman who came in second strongly objected to the assertion that she came in second because the other runner was transgender. According to the MJS article, she stated, "How could they be co-opting something for me that is pure joy" It's kind of harsh someone is trying to leverage me and painting a picture as if I'm upset or mad about coming in second, which happens all the time. Emma was having

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CIVIL RIGHTS & LIBERTIES SECTION

To: Members, Assembly Committee on Education
From: Civil Rights & Liberties Section, State Bar of Wisconsin
Date: May 26, 2021
Re: AB 196 – prohibiting transgender females from participating in women’s sports

The State Bar of Wisconsin’s Civil Rights & Liberties Section opposes AB 196, prohibiting transgender female athletes from participating in sports designated for women in public or private K-12 schools.

In *Bostock v. Clayton County*, the US Supreme Court interpreted discrimination against transgender individuals as sex discrimination. Based on that decision, and subsequent interpretation and application, the Civil Rights & Liberties section believes this legislation violates the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment as it would discriminate against transgender female athletes.

In addition, the Section believes excluding any students from participating in athletic events consistent with their authentic gender is harmful and stokes anti-transgender fears. Defining a person's sex as that which is determined at birth by a physician is outdated and has no scientific basis. Further, sex determined at birth tells nothing about the athletic ability of the players.

Evidence shows that transgender females do not have an inherent advantage over cisgender females. The reality is that there are hundreds, possibly thousands, of trans women competing in sports, yet only a handful have had any success at the high school or collegiate level. Women’s sports have continued to grow and thrive in states with policies that allow trans student athletes to compete. There is no evidence that any legislative action is necessary to maintain a level playing field.

Lastly, major medical and mental health associations have found that affirming trans youth in their gender is a critical part of improving physical and mental health outcomes for this population. Therefore, this legislation would be damaging to trans youth, by disaffirming their gender.

For these reasons, the Civil Rights & Liberties section opposes AB 196.

For more information, please contact our Government Relations Coordinator, Lynne Davis, ldavis@wisbar.org or 608.852.3603.

The State Bar of Wisconsin establishes and maintains sections for carrying on the work of the association, each within its proper field of study defined in its bylaws. Each section consists of members who voluntarily enroll in the section because of a special interest in the particular field of law to which the section is dedicated. Section positions are taken on behalf of the section only.

The views expressed on this issue have not been approved by the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Wisconsin and are not the views of the State Bar as a whole. These views are those of the Section alone.



STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN



WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

TO: Senator Kathy Bernier and the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families
Representative Barbara Dittrich and the Assembly Committee on Education
Representative David Murphy and the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities

FROM: Kim Vercauteren, Executive Director, Wisconsin Catholic Conference

DATE: May 26, 2021

RE: Support for AB 195 & 196 and SB 322 & 323, Male, Female, and Coed Athletics

The Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC) appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony on behalf of the Roman Catholic bishops of Wisconsin in support of Assembly Bills 195 and 196 and Senate Bills 322 and 323.

These bills impact public schools, parental choice program schools, and UW System and technical colleges by requiring that any interscholastic, intramural, or club athletic teams or sports, designate the athletic team or sport as falling into one of three categories based on the sex of the participating pupils: 1) participants who are males, men or boys; 2) participants who are females, women, or girls; 3) coed or participants of both sexes. The bills define “sex” as the sex assigned or determined at birth by a physician. The bills also require the educational institution to prohibit a male pupil from participating on an athletic team or in an athletic sport designed for females, women, or girls. Lastly, the bills require the educational institution to notify pupils and parents if it intends to change a designation for an athletic team or sport.

Pope Francis has said that “The Church is interested in sport because the person is at her heart, the whole person, and she recognizes that sports activity affects the formation, relations and spirituality of a person.”¹ The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) affirmed that “[i]n education and in sports, we must seek to avoid anything that debases human dignity, including rejection of a person’s body or unequal treatment between men and women. This has particular relevance in athletics, where male competition in activities designated for women and girls can be both unfair and, especially in high-contact sports, unsafe. It is true that some women have excelled in these events with men. But any time a policy facilitating such male competition takes an athletic opportunity away from a female, it is a loss for basic fairness and the spirit of Title IX.”²

¹ Pope Francis, [Address to the Italian Tennis Federation](#), Rome (May 8, 2015)

² United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), [U.S. Bishop Chairmen Letter to Congress in Support Protection of Women’s and Girls’ Sports](#) (October 27, 2020)

The USCCB has noted the importance of prizing the unique and complimentary gifts of men and women within the context of family.

By erasing the beautiful differences and complementary relationship between man and woman, we ignore the glory of God's creation and harm the human family, the first building block of society. Our sex, whether we are male or female, is part of God's plan for creation and for our lives. As Pope Francis has taught with such sensitivity, to live in the truth with God's intended gifts in our lives requires that we receive our bodily and sexual identity with gratitude from our Creator. No one can find true happiness by pursuing a path that is contrary to God's plan.

Every human person is made in the image and likeness of God and, without exception, must be treated with dignity, compassion, and respect. Protecting our neighbors from unjust discrimination does not require redefining human nature.³

As Pope Francis wrote, "The acceptance of our bodies as God's gift is vital for welcoming and accepting the entire world as a gift from the Father and our common home, whereas thinking that we enjoy absolute power over our own bodies turns, often subtly, into thinking that we enjoy absolute power over creation."⁴

Each person has been given a natural body that is either a male or female. We need, in the words of Pope Francis, "to rediscover the beauty of the creative design that also inscribes the image of God in the alliance between man and woman."⁵

By acknowledging "sex" as assigned or determined at birth by a physician and reflected on the birth certificate, these bills seek to maintain and uphold the value that both men and women bring to athletics.

The Wisconsin Catholic Conference therefore urges you to support AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Thank you for your time today.

³ USCCB, *President of U.S. Bishops' Conference Issues Statement on Supreme Court Decision on Legal Definition of "Sex" in Civil Rights Law* (June 15, 2020)

⁴ Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, n. 155 (2015)

⁵ Pope Francis, *General Audience*, (April 15, 2015)



Wisconsin School Social Workers Association

Our main role as school social workers is to remove barriers for our students and families in the education system. The proposed bill would be creating a barrier to access sports for our transgender students. In addition, preventing transgender students from accessing sports has real implications for physical and mental health. Furthermore, such mental health issues can create a barrier to education.

According to the 2017 Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1 in 2 LGBT students reported depression and were 3 times more likely to consider suicide than straight cisgender peers. Additionally, LGB youth were substantially less likely to meet recommended physical activity guidelines than straight peers, and had a higher incidence of being obese. For many, sports can be the answer. In a 2014 study, sports participation during adolescence was shown to decrease likelihood of depressive symptoms in adulthood. Going further, another study revealed that physical activity alone was not enough to reduce feelings of hopelessness; however, participation in a sport protected against both hopelessness and suicidality. Over the past year, mental health issues for LGBTQ youth have only gotten worse. The Trevor Project, a 24-hour crisis helpline for LGBTQ youth, have seen engagement double at times during the pandemic. Now, more than ever, we need to be providing access to any and all sources of intervention and prevention for mental health issues, not creating barriers.

Sincerely,
Wisconsin School Social Workers Association Board Members

McCoy, K. (2017). 2017 Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Summary Report. Madison: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 2018.

Jewett, R., Sabiston, C., Brunet, J., O'Loughlin, E., Scarapicchia, T., & O'Loughlin, J. (2014). School Sport Participation During Adolescence and Mental Health in Early Adulthood. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 55*(5), 640–644. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2014.04.018>

Taliaferro, L., Rienzo, B., Miller, M., Pigg, R., & Dodd, V. (2008). High School Youth and Suicide Risk: Exploring Protection Afforded Through Physical Activity and Sport Participation. *The Journal of School Health, 78*(10), 545–553. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1746-1561.2008.00342.x>



WISCONSIN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

WIAA STATEMENT OF OPPOSITION TO LEGISLATION AB 195/196 & SB 322/323

The WIAA respectfully objects to the provisions in AB 195/196 and SB 322/323 wherein the legislature is inserting itself into the decision-making process of a private, member driven organization.

We believe the bill is unnecessary. The WIAA serves a diverse membership of private and public schools that has a long history of providing opportunities and creating policies that benefit all student-athletes.

The purpose of the WIAA is “to organize, direct and control an interscholastic athletic program that promotes the ideals of its membership and opportunities for member schools’ participation,” as well as “emphasizing interscholastic athletics as a partner in the total education process.”

The WIAA, with the guidance of its Sports Medical Advisory Committee developed, approved and implemented its Transgender Participation Policy in 2015, becoming one of the first states to create a policy to provide opportunities for transgender students while continuing to provide a level field for all student-athletes. The policy addresses participation and eligibility of transgender athletes in WIAA-sponsored athletics.

The policy balances the important goals of: 1) gender equity, since providing equal access to opportunities in all aspects of school programming is a core value in education, as well as federal law; 2) physical safety, since biological males or androgen-supplemented biological females are typically stronger and faster than biological females; and 3) competitive equity, since the ideal of a “level playing field” is an inherent expectation at all levels of sport competition.

Our guiding principles for this policy are:

1. The WIAA is committed to ensuring that transgender students have opportunities to participate in WIAA sponsored athletics with verification and medical documentation.
2. Member schools shall ensure that all students have access and opportunities to participate in athletics without discrimination based on disability, race, creed, color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, age, national origin, or ancestry.
3. Policies governing sports participation for transgender students should be informed by sound medical knowledge and scientific validity.
4. The medical privacy of transgender students should be preserved.

The WIAA’s transgender policy has been in place for six years, and the executive office has not received any concerns regarding the loss of opportunity or achievement for cisgender girls as result of transgender participation in an estimated 750,000 scheduled school-based varsity competitions statewide during that time period.

The WIAA was one of the first state associations to champion opportunities for girls and has fought, in court in some instances, to preserve opportunities for girls long before transgender-based concerns were raised. There are membership rules that are already in place that do not allow boys to play on girls sports teams. The Transgender Participation Policy along with the “Pupil Non-Discrimination Guidelines for Athletics” were developed by the WIAA and the Wisconsin Department of Instruction to provide guidance to schools for compliance with Title IX and federal law while providing equitable opportunity for all students.

This legislation is focused solely on the competition aspect of sport and not on the intrinsic benefits derived from participation and inclusion. This legislation unnecessarily – intentionally or not – targets a vulnerable segment of young people that may further isolate them and would only exacerbate their vulnerability and create division. Our focus remains on the health, wellness, education and development of all students through participation in school sports and activities.

Assembly Committee on Education
May 26, 2021

**Department of Public Instruction Testimony
in Opposition to Assembly Bill 196**

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) would like to thank Chairman Thiesfeldt and members of the committee for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to Assembly Bill 196 (AB 196).

Creating safe and supportive school environments for all youth, including those who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT), is essential to educational success as well as social, emotional, and physical well-being. AB 196 goes in the opposite direction and specifically writes into statute an allowance to discriminate against a protected class of students. This prevents school districts from providing an inclusive and supportive environment to all students and harms students who are discriminated against as allowed under the bill.

Background

State Statutory Provisions

Under Wisconsin Statutes 118.13, pupil discrimination is prohibited. Specifically, the statute reads:

...no person may be denied admission to any public school or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil services, recreational or other program or activity because of the person's sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.

AB 196 amends Wisconsin Statutes to state that except as laid out in the proposed language of the bill surrounding sports, the prohibition on pupil discrimination applies.

Data and Research

According to the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey students who report having strong adult support, as well as high levels of school and extracurricular participation and belonging, are less likely to engage in risk behaviors and more likely to report positive mental health and higher grades. Students in extracurricular activities were 1.6 times more likely to feel like they belong at school (68.8 percent versus 44.2 percent) and less likely to report depression (24.8 percent versus 35.8 percent).

Child development research¹ demonstrates that in order to thrive, children must have their physical, social, emotional, and educational needs recognized and addressed. When children are told they are explicitly protected by schools' anti-bullying and anti-harassment policies, and are able to engage and participate in school activities², particularly those that actively affirm their identities³, their academic achievement improves and their risk for negative outcomes, such as suicide⁴ or school drop-out, significantly decreases.

Federal Law

The Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment states, "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

Similarly, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 states, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." Title IX applies to schools, local and state educational agencies, and other institutions that receive federal financial assistance from the U.S Department of Education (USDE).

Conclusion

AB 196 creates an allowance in state law to discriminate and is in conflict with the research demonstrating the beneficial effects of a supportive, affirmative, and safe environment as well as the benefits of sports and physical activity for high-risk youth. While not covered as part of this testimony, AB 196 would also be in direct conflict with current guidance from the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association.⁵

If you have questions about this testimony, please contact Grant Huber, Legislative Liaison at grant.huber@dpi.wi.gov.

¹ National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2019. *Fostering Healthy Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Development in Children and Youth: A National Agenda*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/25201>.

² Shulruf, B. Do extra-curricular activities in schools improve educational outcomes? A critical review and meta-analysis of the literature. *Int Rev Educ* 56, 591–612 (2010). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11159-010-9180-x>.

³ Joseph G. Kosciw, Neal A. Palmer, Ryan M. Kull & Emily A. Greytak (2013) The Effect of Negative School Climate on Academic Outcomes for LGBT Youth and the Role of In-School Supports, *Journal of School Violence*, 12:1, 45-63, DOI: [10.1080/15388220.2012.732546](https://doi.org/10.1080/15388220.2012.732546).

⁴ Mark L. Hatzenbuehler, K. M. (2013). Inclusive Anti-bullying Policies and Reduced Risk of Suicide Attempts in Lesbian and Gay Youth. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 53(1), S21-S26. Retrieved from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1054139X12003540>.

⁵ Wisconsin Interscholastic Association. Transgender Participation Policy. Retrieved 5/24/21 from <https://www.wiaawi.org/Portals/0/PDF/Eligibility/WIAAtransgenderpolicy.pdf>.

Good morning members of the committee,

My name is Stephanie Parmentier and I use she/her/hers pronouns. I am here today in opposition of the four bills referred to as the Protecting Women in Sports Act (AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323). I believe these bills will be dangerous to the mental health of the trans and nonbinary youth of Wisconsin.

A 2020 survey conducted by the Trevor Project found that more than half (52%) of trans and nonbinary youth surveyed have seriously contemplated suicide.¹ One fifth had attempted suicide. However, the attempted suicide rates of trans and nonbinary youth who reported having pronouns respected by all or most people in their lives was half that of those who did not have their pronouns respected. In other words, while trans and nonbinary youth have critically high instances of serious mental health challenges, affirming the gender identity of trans and nonbinary youth is associated with lower rates of suicide attempts.

Allowing individuals to play on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity is a form of gender identity affirmation. It allows people to participate as their full selves. These bills seek to remove any ability to affirm an individual's gender identity- to remove any sense of belonging in sports for trans and nonbinary individuals. This is dangerous. Like I mentioned earlier, trans and nonbinary youth are already at a heightened risk for suicidal ideation. What these bills are trying to achieve is the exact opposite of what is shown to improve the mental health of this population.

This matters a great deal to me. Not only because I am a human and I care about the well-being of other humans, but because I am a queer person who struggled with my mental health and attempted suicide in high school. I care very deeply about the negative impacts of discrimination on mental health, especially for the LGBTQ community. While I will never know what it is like to be trans or nonbinary nor will I ever know what suicidal ideation stemming from gender dysphoria feels like, I know what it is like to want to die. And I know the pain and anguish of trying to die. I don't want to wish that struggle on anyone, least of all our youth.

Allowing kids and young adults to play on the gendered sports teams they identify with affirms their sense of self and their mental health. Inversely, legal denying this ability is damaging and dangerous to their mental health. And for this reason, these bills should not become law.

Since I did mention suicide and mental health issues, I encourage anyone who is at risk of suicide to call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255), the Trevor Project's 24-hour crisis hotline (1-866-488-7386) if you are a young LGBTQ person, or the Trans Lifeline (1-800-273-8255) if you are a trans or nonbinary person of any age.

Thank you for your time.

Stephanie Parmentier
Madison, WI 53704

Addition: there are scientifically more than 2 sex Chromosome pairings:

XX, XX, XO, XXX, XXY

¹ The Trevor Project. (2020, July 15). *The Trevor Project National Survey on LGBTQ Mental Health 2020*. Retrieved May 25, 2021, from <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2020/>.

May 26, 2021

Thank you for your attention today.

My name is Elly McGraw Chybowski. I grew up on a dairy farm & graduated from Dodgeville High School. I received my bachelor's degree in Nursing from UW-Eau Claire and my Master's in Maternal Child Health as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner from UW-Madison. My entire life has been dedicated to children, personally and professionally. I have been a school nurse in the Madison Metropolitan School District since 1987. Over the span of a long and fulfilling career, I have worked with or known students who are transgender in elementary, middle and high school. I am also the proud grandmother of a beautiful child who is trans. I am here to strongly oppose AB196 & all anti-trans legislation.

My parents taught my nine siblings and me about the value of hard work along with the importance of being kind to others. We were taught to be loving & accepting of all. My guess is that many of you have similar backgrounds and parents with similar values. So, what brings you to this day where you are debating voting for a bill that would show hate and animosity toward a group of children & young adults? Why is this important to some of you? How have individuals who are transgender impacted your life? Have you taken time to meet with any of these wonderful people?

I am spending the day today at the Capitol for the first time ever to speak to all of you. I am here to honor the students who are transgender and have impacted my life. These students are typical, hard-working, loving students. These students have many interests in life... just like all of you. Some enjoy the teamwork, sportsmanship and leadership skills learned by playing sports. If some of you played sports, think back to how important that was in your personal development.

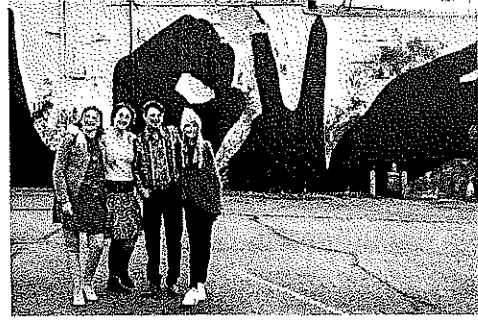
Although I have supported and counseled students who are transgender, some have committed suicide. They were not accepted by individuals like those of you who plan to vote for this discriminatory bill. I am honoring all children & individuals who are transgender in our community, country & world. Kids just want to be kids. They want acceptance and love and appreciation for all of the talents they were born with. My entire career has been spent trying to create a safe, inclusive environment for ALL students. Isn't that what we want for all of our children and grandchildren?

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, "Transgender children are already at increased risk for violence, bullying, harassment and suicide. They may be more prone to depression and engaging in self-harm. These children need acceptance and affirmation, not stigmatization. Transgender children should be supported, nurtured and cared for, whether in their homes, in their schools or through policies enacted at the state and federal levels."

All children want to pursue their dreams whether that is through sports, music, art, science, education, politics or whatever. Children who are transgender are children. They have emotions and strong spirits. Please don't play a part in negatively affecting their lives. Don't we adults have a responsibility to be positive role models to the younger generation? My parents also taught me to be a strong leader. I am hoping that many of you will be leaders today and stop this bill from passing. Please open your hearts to being kinder & loving. Love your neighbor as yourself. This bill certainly does not follow that important life guiding principle, does it?

Please defeat this bill.

Good morning. My name is Courtney Reed Jenkins, and I am a school board member in Cambridge, Wisconsin, home of about 800 Blue Jays. I am also a parent of a girl who loves to play soccer. I'm here today to testify against Assembly Bills 195 and 196 and Senate Bills 322 and 323 because they are not designed to address real needs in Wisconsin, because they are bad law and will require public investments to defend - and likely lose - in court, and because they are out of sync with Wisconsin values.



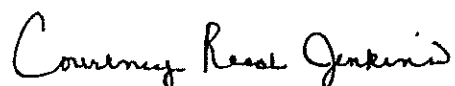
As public servants, I know we share the value of responsive policy-making. Given that these bills affect student athletes, I am surprised that this topic has been introduced as a Wisconsin need because this is not an issue that has crossed my radar in five years of school board leadership. And in those same five years, it hasn't been quiet - I have a good pulse on the issues facing Wisconsin schools. I hear from my constituents, I hear from the amazing administrators and teachers in my district, and I hear from professional associations in Wisconsin and beyond. Not once have I heard anything about student athletes' gender identity as an issue. To put an even finer point on it: we have a strong athletic director who is active in our conference. He keeps our board members informed on the happenings within the Capitol conference, both from a formal update perspective and informal, we-live-in-small-town-Wisconsin ways; not once, in the five years I've been on the board, has gender identity in K-12 athletics been mentioned. In other words, as someone on the ground and in-the-know, I don't understand why this non-issue is what you are taking time and resources to address.

Because, frankly, there are other issues, including education-related issues, that DO need to be addressed. All year, I've heard from families in my community about the mental health needs of students, particularly during the pandemic. Parents and guardians have reached out to express concerns over student safety in schools that have decades-old HVAC systems. Our community passed a referendum to increase our operating budget by 10% because school financing in Wisconsin isn't fair.

As public servants, we also share a responsibility to be good stewards of public dollars. If enacted into law, these bills will no doubt be litigated. As U.S. District Judge David Nye wrote in his August 2020 injunction in *Hecox v. Little*, the case involving Idaho's Fairness in Women's Sports Act, the plaintiffs who challenged the law are "likely to succeed in establishing the Act is unconstitutional as currently written." Given the patchwork of laws that are springing up across the country, and the promises of stakeholder litigation, passing this bill will cost Wisconsin taxpayers. Why not wait until the dust settles and not burden taxpayers, who are divided on this issue, with the cost of defending a law?

Finally, I am opposed to these bills because they do not reflect the values I know to be true in Wisconsin. When I moved to Wisconsin over two decades ago, I found a place where folks welcomed me and my family and where there was a tolerance for the different ways folks move through the world. I deeply appreciate my school community and the way in which the adults model for learners how to accept one another and support children as they grow into adults who respect each other. Through playing soccer, my daughter has learned from her coaches and her team how to care for others in community; how to accept the unique strengths and areas of growth each player brings to the game; and how to support each other as they are growing into the humans they will become. In summary, my Wisconsin values are about community, kindness, care and compassion. I do not see these values in these bills.

Thank you for listening to me and all the others who are participating in this democratic process.



Courtney Reed Jenkins

N4390 Park Road, Cambridge, Wisconsin 53523

courtneyreedjenkins@hotmail.com

Subject: Oppose AB195, AB196, SB 322, and SB 323 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

Presented by Katie Hayden, 109 E. Lakeview Ave., Madison, WI 53716

May 26, 2021

My name is Katie Hayden, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am here today to oppose the proposed bills AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As a middle and high school girl growing up in La Crosse public schools, I did it all: softball, track, soccer, tennis, basketball, volleyball. I credit a lot of my healthy habits as an adult to the foundations I learned as a student-athlete - exercise can be fun, our bodies are powerful, I can challenge my own limits, healthy competition can teach us perseverance and humility (some of my teams lost a lot). School itself wasn't always a good fit for me, but I was given space to be myself in sports. No one questioned my right to join any team. My coaches and teammates pushed me to give all I had athletically, and they saw me for who I was. Two of my closest friendships were built on the JV tennis court and the varsity soccer field. I may not have launched a professional athletic career, but I am immensely grateful for the access I had to school sports and the friendships, leadership, discipline and physical health I developed.

Now that I'm a teacher, and coach, and parent, I see with new eyes how sports can be such a critical piece of a kid's life. Much to my surprise, my own child came out as trans between our fall and spring soccer seasons when they were in kindergarten. Based on their genetics, I have very little reason to predict that they'll be the star of any team. But like any other elementary schooler who wants to play, they want to have fun with their friends, and they thrive on the feeling of accomplishment when they master a new skill or work together with their teammates to score a goal.

Please, do not legislate the exclusion of my child: Vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322 and SB 323. Discrimination and exclusion have absolutely no place in our schools, on our courts, or on our fields. Trans kids, like kids of all genders, deserve access to play school sports. Trans boys are boys. Trans girls are girls. Non-binary kids are non-binary. Let them be kids, and let them play.

Presented to Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs;

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers;

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Statement from Rachel Crowl Resident of Appleton, Wisconsin

Since I can remember and all the way through my twenties I knew I was different. That I was trans. That I was female. I KNEW THIS.

I also knew that I better not tell a soul because this was the 80s and the 90s and the world I lived in had no room for me being transgender. It wasn't until I found enough courage equal to the desperation I felt to finally transition. It also helped that by that time I had loved ones who accepted me fully. That helps.

I did have to give up my acting career because at the time all that was available for me to play was some variation of a hooker. Dead or alive.

So I retired and we moved to Wisconsin and I got on with my life. But all those years I wasn't acting? I can't get those years back. In 2017 I rolled the dice and to my surprise I have a healthy acting career that takes me to stages and sets all over the country.

Because times have changed.

Now, young people who realize they're trans? The world has changed, my friends and very much so for the better. There's a chance now that they won't have to have years and years of anguish trying to hide or be something they're not. They have a chance to live those years as themselves and that's truly wonderful.

It's not perfect, obviously. I wouldn't be here if it were.

The bills you are considering today will truly have harmful repercussions for our trans youth.

When your government goes out of its way to regulate and legislate who you are in a way that singles you out for special – not better – treatment. That sends a message.

Being young is not easy in a very complicated world. Being trans is not easy because it's not easy. It's not a thing you wake up one day and say, "Gee, I'd like to turn my entire life upside down and risk censure and abandonment from those I love. Sure, I'd totally choose that!"

Not.

The legislation you are considering will only further complicate young people's lives when they're already so very complicated. It lacks empathy and it singles out a tiny group of people for a kind of public ridicule.

When I travel people ask me about what it's like to live in Wisconsin as if it were some mysterious place. Most of the time I only have good things to say. But this? This is embarrassing and cruel and needless.

I very much hope that you will find it in your hearts to just let kids play and get on with actually important stuff.

Thank you for your time.

Subject: Oppose AB195, AB196, SB 322, and SB 323 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

Presented by Katie Hayden, 109 E. Lakeview Ave., Madison, WI 53716

May 26, 2021

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Presented to Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs;

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers;

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN_®

Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education
State Capitol
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

May 25, 2021

Re: Human Rights Campaign Opposition to A.B. 196

Dear Chair Thiesfeldt and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Human Rights Campaign's more than three million members and supporters, I write to you ahead of your consideration today of A.B. 196, a bill that would prohibit public schools and other educational institutions from allowing transgender youth to play school sports consistent with their gender identity. For the reasons outlined below HRC strongly recommends you reject this discriminatory legislation. There is a real human cost inflicted by these bills, and there is a financial cost as well - this bill will inspire litigation, reputational harm, and potential loss of millions in federal education funding. Given the very real harms that this bill would inflict on Wisconsin, and given the lack of evidence to support that there's any issue in Wisconsin that needs solving, **advancing this bill today will put Wisconsin squarely on the wrong side of history.**

The bill before you is part of an insidious national trend: between this year and last the country has seen seventy-five bills introduced that would prohibit transgender athletes from being able to play sports alongside their peers. This surge in legislation is due to an intentional, coordinated campaign by opponents of LGBTQ equality.¹ It is not due to any actual problem that has arisen from transgender athletes being allowed to play sports consistent with their gender identity, as they have been doing in more than sixteen states across the country for many years.² Transgender athletes have been participating in sports at every level for decades, and sports associations and regulatory bodies – including the NCAA – have taken steps to ensure there is a

¹ One article exploring ADF's hand in spreading anti-transgender sports bans in the states 2020-2021 is available from the American Independent at <https://americanindependent.com/lgbtq-transgender-rights-states-legislation-right-wing-hate-groups/>. Note that efforts to blame the Biden administration for these bills are post-hoc; 32 anti-trans athlete bills were introduced in 2020, before Biden had even secured the Democratic nomination.

² TransAthlete's list of high school policies available at: <https://www.transathlete.com/k-12>

level playing field for all.³ **Sponsors of this legislation in states around the country have failed to provide examples of issues that have arisen in their states⁴ because this is an invented problem that relies on misinformation, harmful stereotypes, and prejudice against transgender people.** It is discrimination, plain and simple.

Advocates for women's sport such as the National Women's Law Center,⁵ the Women's Sports Foundation,⁶ and others - support transgender inclusion and reject these types of bills, and athletes themselves agree.⁷ **There simply is no actual problem posed by inclusive sports programs.** Transgender girls, like all girls, have varying interest in sports; they have varying ability in sports; some girls are tall, some are short; some are fast, some are slow; some have hand-eye coordination, some have two left feet; some have the passion to practice, and others dread even physical education class. The argument that transgender girls will take over girls' sports relies on harmful, sexist stereotypes reinforced by misinformation spread by opponents of equality who have no compunction about scoring political points at the expense of innocent transgender kids just trying to navigate their adolescence.

This bill inflicts real harm on a small, already vulnerable population – transgender youth – with no actual, plausible justification apart from misunderstanding and dislike of transgender people. There is no legitimate government purpose being served. **This bill does only harm, no good.**

That's why, while bills like these have proliferated in state legislatures across the country last year and this - pushed by an organization that has been designated an anti-LGBTQ hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center – most legislatures have rejected it. That's because this flagrantly discriminatory bill will suffer the same fate as Idaho's H.B. 500: immediate challenge in court. The District Court issued a preliminary injunction stopping enforcement of the Idaho bill (that injunction is currently on appeal to 9th Circuit), decisively rejecting the arguments by the state, which are the same arguments put forward justifying this bill. The Court concluded that "the incredibly small percentage of transgender women athletes in general,

³ NCAA policy adopted 2011 available at:

https://www.ncaa.org/sites/default/files/Transgender_Handbook_2011_Final.pdf

⁴ An AP report investigating the justification for these bills concluded "Lawmakers can't cite local examples of trans girls in sports". Story available at: <https://apnews.com/article/lawmakers-unable-to-cite-local-trans-girls-sports-914a982545e943ecc1e265e8c41042e7>

⁵ National Women's Law Center blog about their involvement in *Hecox v. Little*. "Stop Using Girl Athletes to Justify Your Transphobia" available at: <https://nwlc.org/blog/stop-using-girl-athletes-to-justify-your-transphobia/>

⁶ "Participation of Transgender Athletes in Women's Sports" position statement available at: <https://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/participation-of-transgender-athletes-in-womens-sports-the-foundation-position.pdf>

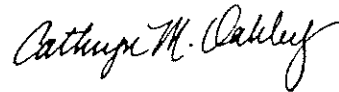
⁷ Excerpt from the letter: "All athletes deserve to compete. All athletes are worthy of protection. No athlete should feel unsafe being who they are." Sports Illustrated story on the letter available at: <https://www.si.com/college/2021/03/10/ncaa-petition-anti-trans-legislation>

coupled with the significant dispute regarding whether such athletes actually have physiological advantages over cisgender women when they have undergone hormone suppression in particular, suggest the Act's categorical exclusion of transgender women athletes has no relationship to ensuring equality and opportunities for female athletes in Idaho."⁸ The Court further invoked as evidence that Idaho had considered other pieces of anti-transgender legislation in the same session and concluded that it was disapproval of transgender people, and not an actual government interest, that provoked the passage of the legislation.⁹

Wisconsin has major issues to confront this year, and pursuing legislation related to invented issues instead is policy malpractice. Litigation is likely, as are administrative penalties for flouting federal law - the consequences of which could include suspension of all federal education funds.

Please reject this harmful piece of legislation immediately.

Sincerely,



Cathryn Oakley
State Legislative Director and Senior Counsel
Human Rights Campaign

⁸ Hecox, et al. v. Little, et. Al, No. 1:2020cv00184 – Document 63 (D. Idaho 2020).

⁹ *Id.*

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Brian Juchems, my pronouns are he/him/his, and I am asking you to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. As others have said, trans and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

Let me start by sharing two numbers with you.

The number 20. And the number 1.

For 20 years I've worked with students, educators, school leaders, and families across Wisconsin in various positions at GSAFE. I am currently co-Executive Director. For 25 years GSAFE has worked to create safe and inclusive public schools for queer and trans youth.

I have worked with the smallest to the largest of districts, the most conservative to the most progressive. From Milwaukee to La Crosse, from Bayfield to Beloit, I have helped school leaders and educators learn to do what's best to help trans and nonbinary youth be safe, included, and available for learning.

In all those years, I've only worked with one transgender girl who tried to play on her high school sports team. Much to her consternation, WIAA guidelines on trans participation prevented her from doing so.

WIAA's policy already provides guidance for including trans kids in ways that address safety and fairness concerns for all. Their policy requires students to clear numerous hurdles and sets a high bar for participation - *especially* for trans girls.

The NCAA and the IOC have similar policies guiding participation at the most elite of levels, too. All these bodies have figured it out. They have it under control. But yet, the bills this body is considering today go much, much further. These bills would prevent trans youth from ever participating on the teams that align with their gender. They go too far, and will cause great harm to our most vulnerable students.

I've included with my testimony messages from parents of trans and nonbinary youth who wished to be here today, but could not risk outing their kids - and thereby compromising their safety - by providing public testimony. Please read their words. Their hopes, fears, and concerns are powerful.

Also included are several resolutions recently passed by Wisconsin school districts in support of trans and nonbinary youth and youth athletes.

And finally, you'll find a statement by the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association opposing these bills. They send their regrets for not being here today, by the way. They, along with many Wisconsin school sports professionals, are attending WIAA's annual meeting happening today.

In my career I have received too many late night and early morning texts, calls, and emails letting me know we've lost another trans and nonbinary student to suicide. I've been to too many funerals. I've attended too many memorials. I've sat with students in too many schools trying to help them grapple with the pain of losing another beloved friend. While I don't believe the authors of these bills intend to cause harm, I know the very real impact on students who feel like the world wishes they were gone.

GSAFE asks you to say no to the bill in front of you. I ask you to do so, too.

Brian Juchems
3534 Dawes St
Madison, WI 53714

May 25, 2021

I have two trans daughters in secondary school. Yes, two. Some families have parents with brown hair and kids with all red hair and genetics is a real thing. Unfortunately for my daughters they have inherited my general lack of athletic ability, will never be athletic superstars, and don't currently participate in school sports. However even though they don't currently participate in sports they are not blind and stupid and see in the news that the so called "grownups" in state politics have determined that they are some sort of easy punching bag to score political points. Every kid in this state, cis or trans, gay or straight, black, brown, white and everything in between has already been through far too much this year mentally, socially, and emotionally. After everything else children have been through this year I do not understand why state legislators have decided to single out groups of children for further emotional abuse. My kids are minding their own business and not harming anyone else and can't understand why you adults are bullying them. Please stop.

E.A.

53575

Dear lawmakers:

I am writing to oppose AB 195 & AB 196, which would exclude transgender students from school athletic participation.

I am the parent of a 7-year-old cis gender girl who I hope will participate in youth athletics as she grows older.

As a former competitive athlete, I strongly value all that youth sports offer, especially learning how to set goals, overcome obstacles and be a good teammate.

From my perspective, having transgender girl teammates would only enrich the youth athletic experience that I hope my daughter will have.

In addition to the acquisition of physical skills, sports are about learning to work well with others, and those skills translate across a lifetime.

Excluding certain youth from participating sets a poor example for cis gender youth about how to address differences they may encounter in their lives.

Additionally, I feel strongly that excluding transgender youth from sports teams is harmful to children who simply want to enjoy their childhood and play with their peers.

Let kids play.

EA - 53711

5/24/2021

I am writing to you in opposition to Wisconsin Bill AB195 and AB196. I am writing to you as the parent of a transgender teenager son. A teenager son who rolls his eyes at his parents, needs constant reminders to clean up after himself, loves to hang out with his friends, sleeps the weekend days away and is awake all night, and is also learning to find his path in this world, along with his independence. If this sounds like any other teenager, well, it is because he is exactly like any other teenager. My son just happens to be transgender. He deserves the same opportunities as every other teenager.

My son has played sports his entire life. Sports have taught him how to remain humble in victory, and gracious in defeat. Sports have taught him teamwork, sportsmanship and self discipline. Sports have taught him hard work, dedication and determination. They have contributed positively to his physical and mental health.

My son's name and gender reflect who he is. His school, peers, and family, support and value him. How could you treat my son as the boy he is throughout the school day, and then force him to play on a girls' team for sports? Not only would this harm his mental and physical well being, but he would miss out on the many lessons that being part of a team provides him. He would refuse to play on a girls' team, well, because he is not a girl. As a matter of fact, my kid simply wants to be a kid. It's really that simple. He wants the opportunity that every other boy has to participate in sports.

A lot of the controversy surrounding these bills has to do with transgender females participating in sports. My story above could just as easily be swapped out with someone who has a transgender daughter. They deserve the same opportunity as their peers to participate in sports.

Many Wisconsin school districts are putting forth resolutions and policies supporting their trans students and athletes. They are creating an inclusive, level playing field. These resolutions and policies are working. Banning transgender students from playing sports would undermine the hard work and efforts being put forth on local levels.

I implore you to open up your hearts and listen to the testimony of transgender athletes, their families, teammates, and their peers. The harm that these bills could do to the people we love, including our children, is devastating. Our children deserve to be treated with the same dignity and respect that all children deserve.

Thank you for your time.

JLS
53558

5/24/21

I am writing against the Women in sports bills and in support of Trans athletes. Trans girls are girls. All children have the right to participate in sports of their affirmed gender.

JC
53716

5/26/21

Hello,

I am the parent of a 17 year old trans child and I am asking that you do not move forward with these bills. For a trans child, it is already incredibly difficult to find a space to be included, to be welcomed and to be part of a safe environment. Many struggle with anxiety, self esteem issues, depression and more. My child did, and still does to some extent. I had to remove my son from his school district because of the treatment from classmates and some teachers. We almost lost him freshman year due to this treatment, this non-acceptance, his belief that he would never belong anywhere. We almost lost him. A parent's worst nightmare. Allowing a trans kid to be included in sports, to play, to experience that normalcy, that sense of inclusion could go a long way to saving a life. All my child wanted was a safe place to belong and to fit in. Luckily the Madison school district provided that and in my opinion saved his life. Please give other kids this chance to have healthy opportunities to play in sports and belong on a team. Trans kids are just kids, wanting to belong. Help save a life.

Thank you,
Colleen
Madison, WI 53718

Dear representatives,

It is difficult to find the words to express to you the pain I feel in thinking that some people in my beloved state wish to pass legislation that would directly harm and vilify my child. This hurt compounds all the previous injuries we have experienced trying to raise a healthy child who can, despite the fact that she is different from many around her, grow to love and value herself. My child, like many trans children, has had intense periods of self-loathing and self-harm. Keeping her safe and healthy has, since the onset of puberty, been a full-time job. I can't even attach my full name to this testimony, for fear that somehow it might hurt my child. One might expect schools and the government to help parents in this quest. Instead, I was stunned to find hatemongers wishing to turn my child and children like her into a pawn in their self-righteous culture war. This is not a grassroots effort; these hateful bills suddenly sprang up in more than 30 states across the nation. No, this is a calculated attempt on the part of a fringe group in the Republican party, the same group that has yet to denounce the attempted coup in our nation's capital.

AB196 is a ridiculous proposal, cast in a patriarchal veil of "protecting" girls. Protecting them from what? Surely you are not suggesting that trans kids are a danger, are you? The science on the benefits of activity for physical and mental health is pretty well-established. My child deserves to be involved in sports just as much as any other child. There is no legal basis for depriving her of that right.

I can only surmise that self-serving politicians champion legislation that disparages and others my child--suggests that she is so different, so alien that she is not deserving of basic civil rights--in order to feed their own ambitions. Shame on anyone who is willing to support such efforts.

Sincerely,

LB

zip code: 53726

5/26/2021

I am the mother of a girl, and I am a former Big 10 Varsity athlete. I am appalled at the current proposed legislation that would curtail transgender youth participation in organized athletics.

I feel lucky to have grown up in the 1980's "sweet spot" of women's athletics, when we could all seriously train, but also realize that athletic competition was just one part of our identity. The benefit of athletics is the participation, NOT the winning! Benefits for ALL from athletic pursuits should not be sacrificed to a misguided perception that competition for a few will be somehow harmed.

GC, Madison 53703

5/26/21

Dear committee members,

As the parent of both a transgender child and a cisgender child, I strongly oppose SB 322/323 and AB 195/196. This proposed legislation is invasive, unnecessary, and harmful to youth of all gender identities. The legislation also stands in stark contrast to the rules by which elite competitive sports operate.

Transgender athletes competing at the Olympic level and (for example) in the NCAA may compete on teams that align with their gender identity by following the guidelines of those governing bodies. Why, then, would the state of Wisconsin mandate that child, youth, and young adults who are transgender be forced to participate in teams that do not align with their gender identity? It is not due to a need for "fairness" in sports. It does not prepare young athletes for how elite competitive sporting leagues and governing bodies actually operate. It sets up a scenario in which any K12 or collegiate athlete could have their gender assignment challenged, even by an opponent, and would thereby need to "prove" their gender to continue participation in sport.

These bills, in fact, have nothing to do with sports at all. They serve one purpose: to dehumanize trans children, youth, and young adults. They facilitate state-sanctioned discrimination, exclusion, and social isolation. They infer that children, particularly trans girls and youth, are de facto criminals who cannot safely interact with cisgender teammates. This proposed legislation is unconstitutional, and the introduction of these bills is an absolute embarrassment for the people of Wisconsin.

Respectfully,

A constituent in Madison, Wisconsin

Board of Education
lacrosseschools.org
807 East Avenue South, La Crosse, WI 54601
608.789.7659 • Fax: 608.789.7960

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
LA CROSSE
Dream • Believe • Achieve



RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TRANSGENDER,
NONBINARY, AND ALL LGBTQ+ STUDENTS

WHEREAS, the School District of La Crosse is committed to a learning environment that is physically, socially and emotionally safe for all students; and,

WHEREAS, the School District of La Crosse is committed to cultivating a climate in all our schools that is welcoming, safe, and inclusive for all students; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education and District are committed to honoring, valuing, and affirming our transgender, nonbinary, and all LGBTQ+ students, staff, and families through our policies, practices, and curriculum; and,

WHEREAS, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex; and,

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2020 the U.S. Supreme Court held that discrimination on the basis of an individual's status as gay or transgender constitutes sex discrimination within the meaning of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and,

WHEREAS, President Joe Biden issued an Executive Order on January 20, 2021 affirming that discrimination against transgender individuals is discrimination on the basis of sex and that, "Children should be able to learn without worrying about whether they will be denied access to the restroom, the locker room, or school sports;" and,

WHEREAS, in 1985, the Wisconsin Legislature enacted section 118.13, Wis. Stats., which prohibits discrimination in public schools on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) affirm that denying a student the opportunity to participate on a sports team consistent with their gender identity is likely prohibited sex discrimination; and,

WHEREAS, the WIAA supports transgender students participation in athletics based on their gender identity/expression, not the sex they were assigned at birth;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the School District of La Crosse Board of Education affirms, supports, and values the gender identities and gender expressions of all our students and will continue to further efforts in our schools to create a welcoming, safe,

and inclusive learning environment for our transgender, nonbinary, and all LGBTQ+ students; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School District of La Crosse Board of Education supports human rights and equitable educational opportunities and practices for all LGBTQ+ students; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School District of La Crosse Board of Education rejects any legislation or action that dehumanizes, marginalizes, or violates the rights of transgender, nonbinary, and all LGBTQ+ students.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this resolution was adopted by the Board of Education of the School District of La Crosse on a _____ vote on the ____ day of _____, 2021.

Laurie Cooper Stoll, President

Dawn Comeau, Clerk



"Promoting Excellence for Global Opportunities"
**MONONA GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TRANSGENDER, NONBINARY, AND ALL
LGBTQ+ STUDENTS**

WHEREAS, the Monona Grove School District is committed to a learning environment that is physically, socially and emotionally safe for all students; and,

WHEREAS, the Monona Grove School District is committed to cultivating a climate in all our schools that is welcoming, safe, and inclusive for all students; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education and District are committed to honoring, valuing, and affirming our transgender, nonbinary, and all LGBTQ+ students, staff, and families through our policies, practices, and curriculum; and,

WHEREAS, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex; and,

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2020 the U.S. Supreme Court held that discrimination on the basis of an individual's status as gay or transgender constitutes sex discrimination within the meaning of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and,

WHEREAS, President Joe Biden issued an Executive Order on January 20, 2021 affirming that discrimination against transgender individuals is discrimination on the basis of sex and that, "Children should be able to learn without worrying about whether they will be denied access to the restroom, the locker room, or school sports;" and,

WHEREAS, in 1985, the Wisconsin Legislature enacted section 118.13, Wis. Stats., which prohibits discrimination in public schools on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) affirm that denying a student the opportunity to participate on a sports team consistent with their gender identity is likely prohibited sex discrimination; and,

WHEREAS, the WIAA supports transgender students participation in athletics based on their gender identity/expression, not the sex they were assigned at birth;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Monona Grove School District Board of Education affirms, supports, and values the gender identities and gender expressions of all our students and will continue to further efforts in our schools to create a welcoming, safe, and inclusive learning environment for our transgender, nonbinary, and all LGBTQ+ students; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Monona Grove School District Board of Education supports human rights and equitable educational opportunities and practices for all LGBTQ+ students; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Monona Grove School District Board of Education rejects any legislation or action that dehumanizes, marginalizes, or violates the rights of transgender, nonbinary, and all LGBTQ+ students.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this resolution was adopted by the Board of Education of the Monona Grove School District on a unanimous vote on the 12th day of May 2021.

Loreen Gage, President

Susan Manning, Clerk



Sun Prairie Area
School District
Futures depend on us...every child, every day.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TRANSGENDER STUDENTS

WHEREAS, the Sun Prairie Area School District Board of Education and staff stand by our LGBTQIA+ students and staff; and

WHEREAS, the Board and District staff take seriously our responsibility to provide, safe, nondiscriminatory, and inclusive environments for people of all orientations and identities as they reflect our diverse community around us; and

WHEREAS, the Board and staff are also committed to honoring, valuing, and affirming our transgender and all LGBTQIA+ students, staff, and families through our policies, practices, and curriculum; and,

WHEREAS, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex; and,

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2020 the U.S. Supreme Court held that discrimination on the basis of an individual's status as gay or transgender constitutes sex discrimination within the meaning of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and,

WHEREAS, President Joe Biden issued an Executive Order on January 20, 2021 affirming that discrimination against transgender individuals is discrimination on the basis of sex and that, "Children should be able to learn without worrying about whether they will be denied access to the restroom, the locker room, or school sports;" and,

WHEREAS, in 1985, the Wisconsin Legislature enacted section 118.13, Wis. Stats., which prohibits discrimination in public schools on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) affirm that denying a student the opportunity to participate on a sports team consistent with their gender identity is likely prohibited sex discrimination; and,

WHEREAS, the WIAA supports transgender students participation in athletics based on their gender identity/expression, not the sex they were assigned at birth;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Sun Prairie Area School District Board of Education affirms, supports, and values the gender identities and gender expressions of all our students and will continue to further efforts in our schools to create a welcoming, safe, and inclusive learning environment for our transgender and all LGBTQIA+ students; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sun Prairie Area School District Board of Education supports human rights and equitable educational opportunities and practices for all LGBTQIA+ students; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sun Prairie Area School District Board of Education rejects any legislation or action that dehumanizes, marginalizes, or violates the rights of transgender, and all LGBTQIA+ students.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this resolution was adopted by the Board of Education of the Sun Prairie Area School District on 10th day of May, 2021.



Shorewood School Board
1701 E. Capitol Dr.
Shorewood, WI 53211
414.963.6901
www.shorewoodschoools.org

Dear Speaker Vos,

We write today to urge you to abandon support of AB196, the Protect Women in Sports Act introduced by Reps. Dittrich, Bandtjen and Bernier. As described by Rep. Dittrich, this bill ostensibly protects women, but in fact would codify the same kind of stereotype-driven gender discrimination that kept women from competing in athletics before the passage of Title IX.

We are members of the Shorewood School Board. Some of us are parents of girls who are student athletes. Some are former female student athletes ourselves, thanks to the opportunities that opened up to us despite stereotypes and discrimination around girls participating in athletics.

As board members, we represent and are committed to protecting the well-being of all of our students, including those who identify as transgender, non-binary or gender non-conforming. These students are entitled to participate in school athletics just as their peers who identify with the gender assigned to them at birth.

Barring transgender girls from competing alongside their cisgender peers does not protect anyone - it serves only to harm an already vulnerable group of children.

The idea that transgender girls and women have an unfair advantage over cisgender girls and women, and that they threaten to erase cisgender women's accomplishments and competition in athletics has been thoroughly debunked. The gender stereotypes underlying the idea of unfair competition are often couched as "common sense," based on what we all think we know about gender-based physiological differences, but those "common sense" ideas come apart under even light scrutiny:
(<https://www.npr.org/2021/03/18/978716732/wave-of-new-bills-say-trans-athletes-have-an-unfair-edge-what-does-the-science-s>)

The supposed threat to cisgender girls participating in athletics is simply not true. States with explicitly trans-inclusive policies have in fact seen *more* high school girls participate in sports. States with exclusive policies have seen participation drop.
(<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbtq-rights/reports/2021/03/18/497336/fact-sheet-importance-sports-participation-transgender-youth/>)

The Shorewood School district has protected and will continue to protect every student's right to participate in athletics. We continue to see robust participation in all of our sports by girls from elementary school through high school, without any threat to their ability to compete at the highest level.

Beyond the cruelty of adopting a law that targets vulnerable children who want to participate in sports, there are more pragmatic reasons to not support this proposed legislation. First, there are much more pressing issues before the Assembly, stemming from both the pandemic and predating the pandemic. Second, Gov. Evers is on the record as supportive of trans rights and trans student athletes - he will not

sign this bill. Finally, even if passed into law, this bill would likely be challenged in court, thus tying up resources and forcing Wisconsin legislators into court to defend this attack on children's civil rights.

In support of girls and young women across the state, we urge you to withdraw your support for this discriminatory legislation. If you are truly interested in supporting female student athletes, we would be happy to discuss ways the state could leverage its authority and resources to make that happen.
Sincerely,

The Shorewood School Board:

Paru Shah, President
Hilary DeBlois, Vice President
Emily Berry, Treasurer
Pablo Muirhead, Clerk
Ellen Eckman, Member-at-Large

CC:

Sen. Lena Taylor
Rep. David Bowen



1701 E. Capitol Dr.
Shorewood, WI 53211
414.963.6901
www.shorewoodschoools.org

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TRANSGENDER, NONBINARY, AND ALL LGBTQ+ STUDENTS:

WHEREAS, the Shorewood School District is committed to a learning environment that is physically, socially and emotionally safe for all students; and,

WHEREAS, the Shorewood School District is committed to cultivating a climate in all of our schools that is welcoming, safe, and inclusive for all students; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education and District are committed to honoring, valuing, and affirming our transgender, nonbinary, and all LGBTQ+ students, staff, and families through our policies, practices, and curriculum; and,

WHEREAS, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex; and,

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2020 the U.S. Supreme Court held that discrimination on the basis of an individual's status as gay or transgender constitutes sex discrimination within the meaning of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and,

WHEREAS, President Joe Biden issued an Executive Order on January 20, 2021 affirming that discrimination against transgender individuals is discrimination on the basis of sex and that, "Children should be able to learn without worrying about whether they will be denied access to the restroom, the locker room, or school sports;" and,

WHEREAS, in 1985, the Wisconsin Legislature enacted section 118.13, Wis. Stats., which prohibits discrimination in public schools on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) affirm that denying a student the opportunity to participate on a sports team consistent with their gender identity is likely prohibited sex discrimination; and,

WHEREAS, the WIAA supports transgender students participation in athletics based on their gender identity/expression, not the sex they were assigned at birth;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Shorewood Board of Education affirms, supports, and values the gender identities and gender expressions of all our students and will continue to further efforts in our schools to create a welcoming, safe, and inclusive learning environment for our transgender, nonbinary, and all LGBTQ+ students; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Shorewood Board of Education supports human rights and equitable educational opportunities and practices for all LGBTQ+ students; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Shorewood Board of Education rejects any legislation or action that dehumanizes, marginalizes, or violates the rights of transgender, nonbinary, and all LGBTQ+ students.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this resolution was adopted by the Shorewood Board of Education on a _____ vote on the ____ day of ____, 2021.

Paru Shah, Board President

Hilary DeBlois, Vice President

Emily Berry, Clerk

Pablo Muirhead, Treasurer

Ellen Eckman, Board Member

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TRANSGENDER,
NONBINARY, AND ALL LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUESTIONING,
PLUS (LGBTQ+) STUDENTS**

WHEREAS the Madison Metropolitan School District is committed to a learning environment that is physically, socially, and emotionally safe for all students; and,

WHEREAS the Madison Metropolitan School District is committed to cultivating a climate in all our schools that is welcoming, safe, and inclusive for all students; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education and District are committed to honoring, valuing, and affirming our transgender, nonbinary, and all LGBTQ+ students, staff, and families through our policies, practices, and curriculum; and,

WHEREAS Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex; and,

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2020 the U.S. Supreme Court held that discrimination on the basis of an individual's status as gay or transgender constitutes sex discrimination within the meaning of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and,

WHEREAS President Joe Biden issued an Executive Order on January 20, 2021 affirming that discrimination against transgender individuals is discrimination on the basis of sex and that, "Children should be able to learn without worrying about whether they will be denied access to the restroom, the locker room, or school sports;" and,

WHEREAS, in 1985, the Wisconsin Legislature enacted section 118.13, Wis. Stats., which prohibits discrimination in public schools on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability; and,

WHEREAS the Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic

Association (WIAA) affirm that denying a student the opportunity to participate on a sports team consistent with their gender identity is likely prohibited sex discrimination; and,

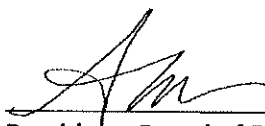
WHEREAS the WIAA supports transgender students participation in athletics based on their gender identity/expression, not the sex they were assigned at birth;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Madison Metropolitan School District Board of Education affirms, supports, and values the gender identities and gender expressions of all our students and will continue to further efforts in our schools to create a welcoming, safe, and inclusive learning environment for our transgender, nonbinary, and all LGBTQ+ students; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Madison Metropolitan School District Board of Education supports human rights and equitable educational opportunities and practices for all LGBTQ+ students; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Madison Metropolitan School District Board of Education rejects any legislation or action that dehumanizes, marginalizes, or violates the rights of transgender, nonbinary, and all LGBTQ+ students.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this statement be permanently imprinted in the Board of Education minutes for the Regular meeting of May 24, 2021.



President, Board of Education

POSITION STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF TRANSGENDER CHILDREN—May 2021

In the Madison Metropolitan School District, we are deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all our children. Our shared values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice drive our decision-making at every level. We take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students.

We believe students, staff, and families of all gender identities are valuable members of our school communities. Transgender kids, like all other kids, deserve the same chances to learn teamwork, leadership, and self-discipline, and to build a sense of belonging with their peers. Athletics provide an environment that supports both physical and mental health. In MMSD, we have seen this firsthand, as our transgender students have succeeded in sports, both as athletes and leaders. We will not waver in our commitment to inclusive practices in our schools, and that includes student extracurricular activities and athletics.

Banning transgender students from sports is not only extremely harmful but undermines the work we have done as a district over the last decade. In MMSD, we have been successful in creating policies and guidance that both protect transgender and non-binary youth to participate in athletics and ensure a level playing field for all students—and it's working! In addition, we have families who actively seek out attendance in MMSD due to our supportive policies and guidance for their transgender kids.

Transgender children are children. We believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. The Madison Metropolitan School District stands in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports.

The Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association (WADA) takes seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students interested in education based athletics. We believe students, staff, and families of all gender identities are valuable members of our school communities. Transgender kids, like all other kids, deserve the same chances to learn teamwork, leadership and self-discipline, and to build a sense of belonging with their peers. Athletics provide an environment that supports both physical and mental health. We will not waver in our commitment to inclusive practices in our schools, and that includes student extracurricular activities and athletics.

Banning transgender students from sports is not only extremely harmful, but undermines the mission on education based athletics. WIAA has been successful in creating guidance that both protect transgender and non-binary youth to participate in athletics and ensure a level playing field for all students. We believe transgender children deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics.

WADA stands in strong opposition to Assembly Bill AB 196, which excludes transgender and non-binary youth from participating in school athletics and sports teams that are in alignment with their affirmed gender by following existing WIAA policy.

As we all continue to face hardship from COVID-19, we need our lawmakers to pay attention to issues that matter—not look for ways to make life harder for transgender and nonbinary youth. We welcome legislation and policy that would proactively work to improve the health, well-being, and safety of transgender and nonbinary youth and send an send a clear and unequivocal message that they are seen, loved, and welcomed in all aspects their community.

Respectfully,

WADA Executive Board

Greg Smith, CMAA Executive Director

Todd Sobrilsky, CMAA President

Nathan DeLany, CMAA President Elect

Shawn Groshek, RAA Vice President

Jeremy Schlitz, CAA Past President

Hearing on 2021 Assembly Bills 195 and 196
Testimony before the Committee on Education
Wisconsin State Assembly

May 26, 2021

Sarah Parshall Perry
Legal Fellow
Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies
The Heritage Foundation

Good morning. My name is Sarah Parshall Perry, and I am a Legal Fellow in the Meese Center for Legal & Judicial Studies at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C.¹ I am also former senior counsel to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the Department of Education. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to appear before you today to offer my views on AB 196, which would require public and private schools that operate or sponsor athletic sports and teams to designate those sports or teams as falling into one of three categories – those whose participants are male, those whose participants are female, and those whose participants are co-ed – and would prohibit male students from participating on an athletic team or in an athletic sport that has been designated for females. I commend the Committee for holding a hearing on this important topic.

I was born and raised in Waukesha, Wisconsin and was a softball player at Waukesha South High School, where I enjoyed the protections of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, a federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in education programs or activities receiving

¹The Heritage Foundation is a public policy, research, and educational organization recognized as exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. It is privately supported and receives no funds from any government at any level, nor does it perform any government or other contract work.

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Members of The Heritage Foundation staff testify as individuals discussing their own independent research. The views expressed here are my own and do not reflect an institutional position for The Heritage Foundation or its board of trustees.

federal financial assistance.² These are protections my 14-year-old daughter now enjoys on her middle school volleyball team in Maryland. The issue we gather to discuss today is very close to my heart.

Today's hearing is about fairness. It's about equality. The participation of biological boys in girls' sports is by its very definition unfair and unequal. Wisconsin's young women stand on the precipice of losing what they have worked so hard to achieve.

AB 196 builds upon the foundation of Title IX. It is one of several similar bills that have been introduced in state legislatures across the country. These bills are not motivated by animus or bigotry against the transgender community, but by the absolute necessity of ensuring the continued equality of girls and women within education. Wisconsin's current un-level playing field has once again made women the target of discrimination. This state's interscholastic athletic policies are not progressive, but regressive.

In 1971, a Connecticut judge proclaimed: "Athletic competition builds character in our boys. We do not need that kind of character in our girls." It was comments like these that helped fuel the groundswell of support for the protection of women's educational opportunities during the waning days of the sexual revolution. It took a House and Senate Conference Committee several months to work through the more than 250 differences between the House and Senate versions of education bills. In 1972, the final legislation—the provision against sex discrimination—became Title IX.

Title IX filled the gap left by Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which protects against sex discrimination in employment but otherwise excludes educational settings, as well as the gap left by Title VI, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin within programs receiving federal funding—but is silent on sex discrimination. These gaps necessitated a statutory remedy to address the vast educational disparities women and girls experienced in relation to boys and men before Title IX's passage. In high school athletics alone, the rate of girls' participation in 2016 was more than 10 times what it was prior to Title IX's passage—representing an increase of over 1,000 percent.³ Title IX has successfully changed the lives of girls and of young women in America by broadening their educational horizons, which in turn, has set them up for career success in later life.

Title IX and its implementing regulations contain a set of limited, sex-affirmative exceptions. These exceptions permit schools to take sex into account to address imbalances in admissions, academic programming, and sports. A sex binary—male v. female—is the foundation upon which the entire statute's operation rests. Title IX's use of the words "both" and

² Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 can be found at 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq., Pub. L. 92-318, as amended by section 3 of Pub. L. 93-568, 88 Stat. 1855. It states: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

³ Dr. Amy S. Wilson, National Collegiate Athletic Association, *45 Years of Title IX: The Status of Women's Intercollegiate Athletics* (2017), available at: https://www.ncaa.org/sites/default/files/TitleIX45-295-FINAL_WEBB.pdf.

“either” to address educational disparities within its regulations reinforces the understanding that there are only two sexes, and opportunities for both must be equal under the law.⁴

Title IX requires educators to see women as they see men. And it ensures that girls and women, at long last, can finally experience sex equality in their educational pursuits.

But the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association’s policies threaten to upend the hard-fought equality of girls and women in this state. Under the Association’s rules, transgender athletes (biological males) may participate on girls’ teams if they have had one year of testosterone suppression therapy. This is a laughably inadequate attempt to fundamentally change decades-long precedent on sex-segregated interscholastic athletics.

Let me be clear, one year of testosterone suppression therapy does nothing to change in any meaningful way the faster muscle twitch response, greater bone density, greater muscle mass, and higher lung capacity that biological boys possess when compared to girls. Such biological distinctions, which give biological males a decided, if not overwhelming, advantage over females in athletic competition, cannot be suppressed, period. In a study⁵ by two Duke University Law School professors, comparing Olympic champion Allyson Felix’s 400 meters lifetime best of 49.26 to that of men and boys around the world, the pubescent and adult males of all ages outperformed her more than 15,000 times in 2017 alone.

As stated in the Preamble to the Title IX Final Rule, published by the Department of Education on May 19, 2020:⁶

In promulgating regulations to implement Title IX, the Department expressly acknowledged physiological differences between the male and female sexes. For example, the Department’s justification for not allowing schools to use “a single standard of measuring skill or progress in physical education classes . . . [if doing so] has an adverse effect on members of one sex” was that “if progress is measured by determining whether an individual can perform twenty-five pushups, the standard may be virtually out-of-reach for many more women than men because of the difference in strength between average persons of each sex.”

⁴ Critics may proffer *Bostock v. Clayton County*, 140 S. Ct. 1731 (2020) and the Supreme Court’s expansion of “sex discrimination” within the scope of employment discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and transgender status as a reason to similarly expand Title IX’s prohibition against sex discrimination to transgender status. However, in his opinion for the majority in *Bostock*, Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch began: “We proceed on the assumption that ‘sex’ signified what the employers suggest, referring only to biological distinctions between male and female.” *Bostock* at 1739. From there, the Court noted, “An individual’s homosexuality or transgender status is not relevant to employment decisions. That’s because it is impossible to discriminate against a person for being homosexual or transgender without discriminating against that individual based on sex.” *Id.* at 1741. The Court’s Title VII precedent supports the proposition that relying at least in part on an individual’s biological sex (as with the case of sexual orientation or transgender status) is prohibited within an employment setting. However, unlike Title VII, which is a sex-“prohibitive” anti-discrimination law, Title IX differs significantly in its text, purpose, operation, and in certain of its applications including athletics, and is “sex-affirmative,” requiring consideration of a student’s biological sex.

⁵ Doriane Lambelet Coleman and Wickliffe Shreve, *Comparing Athletic Performances: The Best Elite Women to Boys and Men*, DUKE CTR. FOR SPORTS LAW & POL’Y (2018), available at <https://law.duke.edu/sites/default/files/centers/sportslaw/comparingathleticperformances.pdf>.

⁶ U.S. Dep’t of Educ., Office for Civil Rights, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance, Final Rule, 85 Fed. Reg. 30,178 (May 19, 2020).

These biological distinctions provide the imperative for AB 196 and offer a compelling argument in favor of its passage by this Assembly. It would be ironic and wrong to enable biological males who declare themselves to be women based on their own sense of a wholly subjective, malleable, and evolving gender identity to obtain an unfair and discriminatory advantage over biological women whose immutable, unchanging sex has been recognized for decades as worthy of protection under well-established federal law.

A 2021 Politico and Morning Consult poll⁷ found that 53 percent of Americans support a ban on transgender athletes competing in women's sports. A 2021 Harvard Harris⁸ poll found that 55 percent of Americans oppose Presidents Biden's executive order allowing boys to compete in girls' sports at schools. Caitlyn Jenner is a biological male and a celebrated former Olympian (a gold medal decathlete, in fact) who competed in track and field under the name "Bruce Jenner." Though Caitlyn came out as transgender in 2015 and identifies as a woman, the former athlete recently spoke out⁹ against allowing transgender athletes who were born male to compete on girls' sports teams. The weight of public sentiment is behind the passage of this bill.

Wisconsin's governor Tony Evers has said:¹⁰ "My message to Wisconsin's transgender kids and students today is simple: I see you. You are welcome, you are wanted, and you belong."

And they are and they do. Transgender students are entitled to enjoy all aspects of American education in the same way students of every race, sex, creed, national origin, and religion belong. This is the guarantee ensured by federal law.

But they do not belong in spaces where the law has spoken unambiguously on distinct, long-standing protections for women and girls within the field of competitive sports. AB 196 accounts for athletic opportunities sought by transgender athletes through recognition of co-ed sports teams.

While critics have sent up a hue and cry of bigotry and hatred in painting this legislation as discriminatory, they misconstrue dissent about biology and matters of public concern as hatred. I urge this chamber not to fall victim to the increasingly strong grasp of cancel culture and the woke zeitgeist. Disagreement is not bigotry, especially when it will deprive biological females of the opportunity to excel in sports, and the confidence and life-changing experiences that come with that competition. Recognizing settled physiological distinctions—as they have been from time immemorial—does not amount to discriminatory conduct.

The entire canon of American civil rights law exists to protect the interests of all Americans, not elevate certain Americans to a superior, privileged positions over others. AB 196 is the paradigmatic example of a level playing field—where boys and girls are given equal educational opportunities in all aspects of learning, including sports. To open women's sports in

⁷ Morning Consult & Politico, National Tracking Poll No. 210,332, March 06-08, 2021, available at <https://www.politico.com/f/?id=00000178-1a7a-d750-a77a-3efba0ac0000>.

⁸ Monthly Harvard-Harris Poll, February 23-25, 2021, available at https://harvardharrispoll.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/February2021_HHP_Topline_RV.pdf.

⁹ Adam Shaw and Brooke Singman, *Caitlyn Jenner Opposes Boys Who Are Trans Playing Sports on Girls' Teams in School, Says It Is Unfair*, May 2, 2021, Fox News, available at <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/caitlyn-jenner-opposes-transgender-sports-girl-teams>.

¹⁰ Marina Pitofsky, *Wisconsin Legislation Would Ban Transgender Athletes Through College Level*, March 2, 2021, The Hill, available at <https://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/541268-wisconsin-legislation-would-ban-transgender-athletes-through?ri=1>.

Wisconsin to biological males will destroy educational athletic opportunities and guarantee unfair outcomes. AB 196 is a commonsense bill with commonsense language and a commonsense application.

Failure to pass this bill can, in my view, be properly labelled as misogyny. Womanhood cannot be achieved by puberty blockers, long hair, surgical intervention, lipstick, or the right athletic training. It is an immutable, biological, chromosomal reality that cannot be overcome and is deserving of the continued protection that AB 196 provides. If a few months of hormone suppression and a self-declaration of womanhood are enough to allow a biological male to compete as a woman, what, after all, was the women's liberation movement for?

I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Good Morning and thank you for hearing my testimony. My name is Mary Jo Walters. I moved to Wisconsin in 2001, after finishing graduate school in California. A friend invited me to live in Milwaukee where there was a large artist's community. I have three children in the Madison Public Schools. I am here today because for the past three years I have watched how my children are being indoctrinated into trans culture. It's pretty overwhelming. I only find hope and peace when I encounter school officials who do not sign their emails with pronouns or have their pronouns up in Zooms.

This individualistic cult culture is highlighted in social media and the so-called "trans" and "non-binary" identities has seeped into sex-based separations. I am here because next year, my Daughter is playing girls tennis, girls hockey and softball. She should be able to compete fairly and with girls only, like I did under title nine. I would like for her to be a player not a spectator in her own sport. Playing sports gave me the confidence to run for office in middle school and high school and later in life, for public office. 96 percent of female CEOs played competitive sports. Destroying girls opportunities to compete with other girls hurts their future abilities to develop as professional adults.

In Madison, the Athletics Director at each high school decides who plays on what team, based on their gender. That means a boy can submit a written request to become eligible to play on a girls team. Parents, friends, and doctors write letters of support to affirm the chosen identity. And the Athletic Director has the final say, although there is an appeal process.

The school district works under the rules of Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association, (WIAA). The WIAA transgender policies highlight the medical alteration of children as a criteria to let biological boys compete against girls. Yes, I am afraid for my daughter because all around her female body are lies. The big lie is that one can be born into the wrong body. This allows biological boys to "identify as a girls" and play on girls sports teams

Sherry Mix
773 Marlow Bay, Verona, WI 52593

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Support for Assembly Bill 195, Relating to: designating University of Wisconsin and technical college sports and athletic teams based on the sex of the participants.

Support for Assembly Bill 196, Relating to: designating athletic sports and teams operated or sponsored by public schools or private schools participating in a parental choice program based on the sex of the participants.

I am Sherry Mix, mother of two young athletic girls, age 11 and 8, and a female athlete. As a competitive cyclist, I strongly support these bills.

I tried many school sports growing up: track and field, swimming, soccer, basketball, but cycling was the first sport I did that I felt like I could be really good at. It was the only sport that I felt like I really succeeded at. The first year I started biking, I received a grass roots sponsorship from Trek bikes. It was a program they were doing to get more females involved in cycling and they gave me my first racing bike. I was racing at the elite level only after a year of riding. I started cycling in high school in 1999 and cycled through college. I took time off after college to focus on my career and to have kids. I decided to make a come back in 2019 after being off for nearly 20 years. I trained for 10 hours a week to get myself back into shape after having three kids. The year I decided to return was my first experience competing against a male identifying as a woman, and I lost. He decided to start competing with the women in 2019 after he had been previously competing with men for several years prior to that. Once a male athlete, now he's been on the women's podium and received prize money at every race so far. He's beating the best women in Wisconsin by large margins. This is not right, fair or just for all the women who train and compete fairly in their prospective categories. Every male on the female podium displaces a deserving female. I've seen it happen several times now and it is so defeating. I do not want women's sports to end because men start beating their best times and start taking away the opportunities that women had fought so hard for over the last 50 years. No matter how hard women train, we are made differently and there is just no comparing our bodies when it comes to sports. One example, Allyson Felix, who has 6 Olympic Gold Medals for the USA and the fastest female sprinter in the world. Her lifetime best for the 400-meter run is 49.26 seconds. Based on 2018 data, nearly 300 high school boys in the US alone could be it.

As a biological woman, allowing men to compete in female sports, discriminates against women like me. We should not force women to compete against men. We passed Title IX in 1972 to protect women in sports on the basis of sex. Female participation has grown 1057% at the high school level and 614% at the college level since Title IX passed. Before Title IX, less than 4% of women played a sport, and now 40% do. Title IX remains the only law that grants women any kind of sports equality in America and it deserves to be protected.

If men are allowed to compete against women, eventually there will no longer be women's sports. There will only be men's sports and coed sports. By allowing men to participate in

or join in on all girls school clubs. My daughter's competitive growth is being stunted even before she starts playing. Allowing males to compete in girls' sports is the end of girls' sports: we will have men's sports, and co-ed sports. As a parent, avoiding harm comes naturally. I am here today in support of these bills that seek to protect women and girls sports, let's hope it is not too late!

I grew up playing sports. It taught me teamwork, gave me courage to make new friends, taught me how to learn from a loss and how to earn a win. The older girls on my teams were there to help show me what I could be with a bit more work.

Growing up with sports led me to continue to seek them out as an adult. And just as it was growing up, seeing what other women are capable of is incredibly inspiring. Working hard and reaching for those podium steps gives you more mental fuel than you thought possible. Maybe one day YOU can be on that top step.

But that opportunity is slipping away. That hope is slipping away. That motivation? Slipping away.

The purpose of competition is to reward hard work and skill. The fun of competition comes from the even playing field.

Studies show that kids who participate meaningfully in athletics have better mental and physical health than their peers that don't. What does that mean? It means you try hard, act with purpose, and challenge yourself by competing against your equally-abled peers. No sandbagging.

Sports are divided into male and female categories because men and women are biologically different. It is common sense that competing against each other would not be an even playing field.

In 2020 World Rugby did an extensive study and published a 38 page report on their findings. The results were not surprising. Men, are stronger by 25-50%, 30% more powerful, 40% heavier, and about 15% faster.

At best, having such inherent strength and speed difference is unfair.

At worst, this strength, size, and speed difference is dangerous and unsafe in contact sports.

Boys and Men who simply identify as female are being allowed to compete against women and girls. They are easily dominating all sports they enter into. Men and women's divisions were established to mediate biological sex differences (a biologically-based categorization), not gender differences (a social construct that relies on stereotypes for categorization).

Every man who stands on a women's podium, is taking the place of and removing the opportunity from a woman who worked even harder to try and get there.

Recently, on May 13, a transgender golfer, aged 28, won a professional women's golf tournament in the US. This man has now set his sights on the US Women's Championship. What about the women he took this opportunity away from?

In Connecticut, over 2018 and 2019, two boys who "identified as women" hold 15 of the Connecticut Women's State Championship Titles. Titles once held by 10 different girls. They took away scholarships from high school girls. Girls who worked every day to try to shave off fractions of a second, only to be crushed by a bigger, stronger, and faster male body. No amount of sprint practices can make up that inherent difference.

2019, Olympic Gold medalist Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce set a new women's record in the 100 meter dash – 10.71 seconds!

woman's sports, it robs us of opportunities. There is nothing equal or equitable about men oppressing women in their own sports. Why would girls want to participate in sports when they know they are going to get beat by a boy? The message to girls is: "You deserve equal opportunities, except in sports." I want to make something very clear with these bills, no one is trying to deny anyone the right to compete in sports. We are fighting to keep men and women competing in their biological sex categories.

This is not an emotional issue- this isn't about being anti-transgender, its not that I and others do not "see" transgender children as human, it's simply a matter of biological fairness. Anything else, is irresponsible and unethical to biological girls and women. Within competitive sport, the truth is, males have significant performance advantages over females and should compete in their biological sex category.

I am here so my girls do not lose the right to opportunities I had. I urge the committee to pass these bills. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

That same year, at the US high school track championships, the winning boys time was 10.53 seconds. Shelly-Ann, Olympic Gold Medalist, one of the fastest women in the world, would have placed 19th against the high school boys.

In 1998, Serena and Venus Williams claimed that no male ranked outside of the ATP Top 200 could beat them. Karsten Braasch, a male ranked 203rd, challenged each sister to a set.

Braasch beat Serena 6 – 1 and beat Venus 6 – 2.

After the match Serena was interviewed and said “I didn’t know it would be that difficult, I played shots that would have been winner on the women’s circuit, and he got to them very easily”.

We have our own examples here at home.

In the world of mountain biking, we have a 38 year old who until the fall of 2019, was competing in the elite men’s field. He’s now been topping the women’s podiums in every race he enters.

In the world of cyclocross, a 27 year old biological male who has been advancing quickly in the women’s category, leaving the majority of his female competitors in the dust, and off the podium.

In the world of ultra running, we have a 28 year old man racing as a women – who recently won the women’s category in a 50k race by 40 minutes.

We have a growing group of females backing out of races and wondering why they should even put any effort into training if no training will ever be enough?

This is not meaningful competition, this is not fair competition.

In 1970, fewer than 5% of US girls participated in high school sports. 1972, the title 9 education amendment gave women athletes the right to equal opportunity in sports and educational institutions. Now, 43% of high school girls participate in sports. And those are just the high school numbers.

Even in recent years we have seen a huge surge in girls that want to get active, learn something new, compete! But having to compete against a male, you know the result before you even start. Why now, should we erase 50 years of advances for women? Pass this bill, keep women’s sports for biological women!

Leah Pickett

Thiensville, WI

05/26/21

To the Assembly Committee on Education, the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities, and the Senate Committee on Human Resources:

I am Jessica Katzenmeyer and I'm openly transgender myself and a former state assembly candidate from last year. I am going to be brief because I know there is a lot of speakers today.

I am speaking today against these bills. I believe it is important for us to support our transgender youth in sports as I know how tough it is to be me every day. The constitution gives us rights and freedoms to express freely of who we are. Our freedoms and rights are constantly being attacked and now our transgender youth who want to play sports with the gender they identify as, are the ones targeted here with these bills. I would like to ask the authors of these bills if they have talked with anyone from the youth transgender community who play sports on how these bills would affect our transgender youth.

I used to play recreational league soccer. I can tell you with my last hormone tests which was done with my doctor, shows a trace to no testosterone in my body. This means if I wanted to play soccer again today, I would have to work so much harder to regain my playing strength as it was before I transitioned. As a transgender female, hormones do not give me an advantage over cis gendered women.

I strongly urge you to vote no on AB 195 and 196, as well as SB 322 and 323 and show support to our transgender youth who want to play sports. Thank you for your time.

Thank you!

Jessica

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Suzanne Josephine Doody, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As a youth hockey coach, I firmly believe that all kids should be allowed to participate in sports. In 15 years of coaching, these kids have been the greatest example to me that they don't care where their teammate comes from, what color their skin is, or how they identify. They are a teammate on and off the ice and that's all they care about.

Most of the kids I coach will never make it onto a college team, let alone participate in the Olympics or professional sports. But I am not here to cultivate an elite athlete. I coach to create good citizens, who know how to work with their teammates, who learn how to deal with losing, and who become coachable in all forms of life.

Teamwork, respect, sportsmanship, collaboration and relationship building; giving kids a place to contribute to the greater good and learn how to be a part of something bigger than themselves. This is what team sports are about. And you should not take that away from trans kids.

Additionally, as an adult hockey player, I have learned so much from my trans teammates. They are all willing to share their knowledge of the game, and are amazing teammates on and off the ice. There is no reason to remove them from the game.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,
Suzanne J. Doody
199 Union Street
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Sarah Estrella, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I have been hearing from trans youth about the harm that this proposed bill is causing them and would further cause them should it be passed. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams that best align with their gender. I feel strongly about supporting our trans and non binary youth and helping them grow up to be thriving individuals and your opposition to this bill would support this.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote **no** on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Sarah Estrella
Ninebark Dr.
Fitchburg, WI 53711

Please Include This Testimony as part of the official bill record for May 26, 2021

My Name is Evelyn Gildrie-Voyles. My Pronouns are she, her, hers. I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and Non Binary youth should be allowed to participate on sports team which best align with their gender. I have worked with children and youth as a theater teacher for over 20 years and I am currently a early childhood educator. As an educator, I must speak out against bills that harm children. And this legislation is harmful to children and young adults. I have worked with trans children both before, during and after they have come out as trans and I have seen how important it is for trans children to be fully accepted by their peers and to be allowed to fully participate in activities of their choosing.

I am the parent of a very avid soccer player and know the benefits of team sports. Trans children should have the same opportunities to learn cooperation, personal discipline, and resilience through sports. Banning them from joining sports teams that best align with their gender will effectively ban them from safely participating in sports.

I want to be clear that these bills harm all children and athletes. First and foremost they harm and demonize Trans children and athletes by preventing them from participating in sports in a way that is true to their identity and by further stigmatizing and isolating them from their peers. In addition these bills, rather than protecting girls and women as they claim, harm girls. These bills will justify the bullying and investigation of any girl or woman athlete who is deemed "too good to be a girl." These bills seek to end a problem that does not exist and will create harm and trauma to children and young adults in the process.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB196, SB322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,
Evelyn Gildrie-Voyles
202 Farley Avenue
Madison, WI 53705

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Gabrielle Eidt, my pronouns are they, them, theirs, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As an LGBTQ+ teacher in MMSD, I have committed myself to ensuring the belonging and safety of every student in my classroom is respected. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

All students who wish to play on a team, exercise and make friends should be free to do so without barriers. When we tell transgender girls that they can't participate in girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches. They also miss out on a feeling of belonging. This policy would make transgender students have to choose between their comfort, sports and their gender identity. Transgender youth already struggle with senses of belonging and have significantly higher rates of suicide. Sports and extracurriculars can either be a place that validates their identities or denies them.

A long time ago, we as a people decided that discrimination on ANY account is wrong, yet we allow discrimination to exclude our children from something as simple as athletics. If sports are offered to all children. Then they must truly be accessible to all children regardless of their race, sexuality or gender.

Transgender people are humans who also have a need for a sense of safety, belonging and freedom. Protecting and uplifting female sports does not have to exclude transgender girls/women, because transgender girls/women are female too. They cannot invade a space that is already theirs. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gabrielle Eidt

Oppose AB195, AB196, SB 322, and SB 323 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Jennifer Herdina, my pronouns are she/her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

Transgender youth athletes are under attack. Anti-LGBTQ lawmakers are unfairly targeting transgender youth who deserve the same sports opportunities as anyone their age. When we tell transgender girls that they can't participate in girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches.

As a nation, we decided long ago that discrimination is wrong and that everyone should have the same opportunities to succeed in life—and that should include transgender youth. Schools across the country know that transgender students, like any student, thrive when they are treated with dignity and respect. School officials shouldn't treat a transgender female student as a girl between 8AM-3PM and then treat her like she's a boy when sports practice starts. It's deeply hurtful to the student and disrupts the school's policy of treating all kids fairly. We can celebrate girls' sports and protect transgender youth from discrimination, making sure that all young people can access the lessons and opportunities that sports afford.

Put an end to this attack by taking supportive action today.

Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jennifer Herdina
Shadow Wood Dr.
Verona, WI 53593

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Greta Landis, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I was a shy kid who struggled in hypercompetitive sports environments growing up, but have discovered a love for team sports as an adult thanks to the Madison Gay Hockey Association and Madison Ultimate Frisbee Association. The revelation that sports leagues can be inclusive, supportive spaces where anyone can play and push themselves to grow has been transformative for me. Sports should be an outlet for fun, learning, and exercise, which is only possible and comfortable if we are allowed to be fully ourselves. As a cis person I want my trans teammates to be able to bring their whole selves to every game. We all are so much more than our hormone levels, and need to treat each other with compassion, not fear, if we want one another to thrive. Trans youth deserve every opportunity.

Thank you for your time. I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Greta Landis
N Brearly St
Madison, WI 53703

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I am deeply troubled by any law that aims to restrict or inhibit in any manner a transgender girl from participating in sports. Sports have been (and continue to be) a fantastic resource for both my daughters. Sports participation and team building help girls develop invaluable leadership and personal skills.

I have witnessed the effect of sports participation on my two teen daughters. They are more self-confident, independent, motivated, assertive, insightful young women thanks to the opportunities sports afford them. The value of sports participation on my daughters cannot be stressed enough. *No one has the right to take this opportunity away from any child at any age.*

As a coach and referee for girls' soccer I have watched many girls find their place on a team and develop their confidence with the help of their peers. For girls in our society, learning what they can accomplish on the soccer field **does** translate to what they can accomplish in life. You cannot deny the value of sports for girls' self-confidence and self-esteem. (Please look at the statistics for girls' participation in sports and their resulting high school and college graduation rates, their careers and CEO status).

Transgender girls must be afforded the same opportunities and rights that my teen daughters have to participate in sports. I am shocked that anyone would even consider they may not participate in girls sports and play on those same teams with my girls.

Janet Rasmussen

Toepfer Avenue, Madison, WI 53711

May 26th, 2021

I am a mother of two - a boy and a girl. I see how important sports and how being a part of a team has been for my kids. My kids have gained confidence, learned respect and what it meant to be part of a team.

I believe that EVERY child deserves sports. Transgender children should not be excluded from participating in sports and miss out on the character-building benefits of being on a team. We should set an example for our children and teach them about INCLUSION and about accepting everyone despite our differences.

Please vote against this bill.

Gina McKane
Blazingstar Lane
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

To whom it may concern regarding AB195,

I'm a constituent and am writing in opposition of the AB195 Anti-Trans Athlete Bill in Wisconsin. I am a student at East High School, and I believe if this bill is passed it will be harmful to many of my fellow students. Because of this bill I feel transgender students will no longer feel safe and respected at school.

In a study published by the American Academy of Pediatrics, over half of transgender youth reported attempting suicide at least once in their lifetime. Last year in the U.S., 44 trans or gender-nonconforming people were *killed* for just being who they were. Many trans people must live in unsafe conditions and experience harassment from family and others. If we don't affirm and support these teens at school, who will?

Our students should be given basic respect, regardless of their sexuality or gender. That includes allowing them to play with the gender of the team they are affirmed with.

Sincerely,

Lyra Houston
790 South Vandenberg Rd

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Rebecca Galvan, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

Kids learn a lot of important life lessons in sports: leadership, confidence, self-respect, and what it means to be part of a team. When we tell transgender girls that they can't play girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches.

It can be hard to understand what it means to be transgender, especially if you've never met a transgender person. And it's common to have questions at first. But we can all agree that transgender kids should be treated with dignity and respect, just like everyone else.

Local schools across the nation are already creating policies that protect transgender youth and ensure a level playing field for all students—and they're working. Banning transgender youth from playing sports undermines those local efforts.

Transgender kids want the opportunity to play sports for the same reason other kids do: to be a part of a team where they feel like they belong. We shouldn't discriminate against kids and ban them from playing because they're transgender.

Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics.

I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rebecca Galvan
North St, Madison WI

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Hello,

My name is Gina Nolan, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

Kids learn a lot of important life lessons in sports: leadership, confidence, self-respect, and what it means to be part of a team. When we tell transgender girls that they can't play girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches. Being a female athlete myself, this is of utmost importance.

It can be hard to understand what it means to be transgender, especially if you've never met a transgender person. And it's common to have questions at first. But we can all agree that transgender kids should be treated with dignity and respect, just like everyone else.

Local schools across the nation are already creating policies that protect transgender youth and ensure a level playing field for all students—and they're working. Banning transgender youth from playing sports undermines those local efforts.

Transgender kids want the opportunity to play sports for the same reason other kids do: to be a part of a team where they feel like they belong. We shouldn't discriminate against kids and ban them from

playing because they're transgender.

Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gina Nolan
Nuestro Mundo Community School, MMSD

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Kids learn a lot of important life lessons in sports. They gain experience in areas such as leadership, confidence, respect and teamwork. Most importantly, they learn what it feels like to belong to a team and feel connected. All kids should have the same opportunity to play sports, no matter their race, religion or gender.

Admittedly, I am still learning about what transgender means. I did not pay much attention to this topic until one of my close childhood friends had a child who is transgender. I learned that, in most cases, it's not easy for the child nor the parents and the statistics surrounding mental health issues for transgender children are alarming. Sports provide a way for transgender kids to feel more of a sense of belonging and help cope with mental health issues they are more likely to be facing.

The debate surrounding transgender youth participating in sports is complicated. However, I believe an all-out ban is overly harsh and represents a lack of ingenuity from policymakers. Such a ban has serious mental outcomes for transgender children who already have the deck stacked against them. Finding middle ground is what policymakers should be striving for, along with coming up with more innovative solutions instead of marginalizing an already marginalized group of people. For these reasons, please do not support the Anti-Transgender Athlete Bill AB195, AB196 and SB322, SB323.

Leigh Baker
Sarissa Drive
Wausau, WI 54401

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Zach Sielaff, my pronouns are he/him, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I have the good fortune to play hockey with a number of trans athletes in the Madison Gay Hockey Association, and I've seen up close just how important being part of a team is for them, as it is for everyone else. To deny such opportunities to trans youth and young adults attending high school and college is to deny them something vital that us cis-people take for granted. This is simply not the way to treat our fellow citizens.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.
Sincerely,

Zach Sielaff
936 E. Dayton St.
Madison, WI
53703

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

To Whom It May Concern Re: Assembly Bill 196:

I am writing to voice both my opposition to and deep concerns about Assembly Bill 196. As a licensed Wisconsin School Social Worker and my school district's LGBTQ+ Coordinator, I have had the honor and privilege of serving numerous students who identify as transgender or non-binary in my career thus far. Every single one of these students is worthy of dignity, respect, and feelings of safety in all areas of their lives, *especially* when they are in school. I truly believe that this bill poses a major threat to their dignity, expectation of respect, and feelings of safety within our schools.

The ability to participate in sports and co-curricular activities, while not essential to one's education, is essential to some students' feelings of belonging. Feelings of belonging happen to also be mitigating factors against risk-taking behaviors, and they are crucial to students' perceptions of safety in school. Further, participation in sports allows students to gain and build upon the skills that are highly valued by future employers: accountability to teammates, time management, interpersonal communication, conflict resolution, loyalty, problem solving while under stress, and the list goes on. To deny student athletes the opportunity to participate in sports based on their sex assigned at birth is to deny them meaningful opportunities to gain these skills in real-life situations outside of the classroom. This is both wrong and discriminatory.

Furthermore, there are many transgender girls who pass as cisgender girls in the school setting. Some students have always been known to their peers and teachers as girls; if passed, this bill would put them in the position to be both outed at school as transgender and to miss out on

opportunities to participate in asset-building opportunities. Putting any student in the position to make these choices is socially and psychologically damaging, not to mention demoralizing. This has great potential to make students feel devalued and unsafe at school, which is supposed to be a place where all students feel welcome and safe all the time.

Thank you for your time, and please vote in opposition to this bill that damages some of our most vulnerable children and youth.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Wetzel Gracyalny
School Social Worker and Parent
Thrush Street
Green Bay, WI 54303

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Nicholas Welton, my pronouns are he/him/his, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

Anti-LGBTQ lawmakers are waging an unfair attack on transgender athletes. AB196 and AB195 are trying to exclude transgender youth from playing sports. We all want to ensure a level playing field in sports. The truth is, every child is different in different ways—which is why some girls excel at gymnastics, others at volleyball, some at basketball, and others at soccer. The overwhelming majority of transgender youth, like most kids, don't even play at elite levels. They just want to play everyday school sports and participate with their peers. I strongly believe that any youth who want to play sports have the freedom to play; and this MUST include transgender youth. AB196 & AB195 unfairly attack transgender youth who want the same opportunities as any student their age: To join a team, stay healthy, and make friends. All students want to play on a team, exercise and make friends. When we tell transgender girls that they can't participate in girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches.

I understand that can be hard to understand what it means to be transgender, especially if you've never met a transgender person. And it's common to have questions at first. But we can all agree

that transgender kids should be treated with dignity and respect, just like everyone else. I urge you to not let your ignorance on the subject drive your decision making. As a parent, an educator and a community member, I refuse to stand by and see adults making devastating decisions that will have grave effects on the health and well-being of our youth.

Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Nicholas Welton
MMSD teacher
(608) 445-8292

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Laura Rivera, my pronouns are she,her, hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender, and not with their assigned sex.

USA hockey permits children to play on all gender teams (if they are interested in doing so), and there are psychological benefits to having inclusive play across multiple genders. As someone who published research on gender pronoun perception, and has advocated for allowing children to self-identify, I recognize and acknowledge the need for trans inclusion in sports.

In my youth, I participated in all gender teams and having a diverse group of teammates allowed me the opportunity to learn what it means to be a team with many types of people. From a biological standpoint, people of all sexes can have a range of specific hormones that should not dictate where they play. If we want to produce children who are confident in themselves, who can work with others, and feel like they can authentically participate in society, we should allow them to play on sports teams that align with their gender.

I myself play in the Madison Gay Hockey Association, where as adults, we play on all gender teams - if USA hockey can form all gender teams, why can't we allow children to play where they feel safe, included, and like themselves.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Laura (Laur) Rivera
Waldorf Blvd #311,
Madison, WI 53719

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I am disheartened to learn that Republicans have submitted legislation that would ban transgender kids from participation on school sports teams that match their gender identity. Bills like this are especially dangerous because they pull opportunities for healthy development away from children and are based on faulty science. It also impedes their social development since trans kids will perceive themselves as unwanted in a lot of spaces.

You may not know a trans kid and this may not affect anyone in your circle. That doesn't mean you should allow this to happen to these kids.

Please vote no on AB 195 and AB 196. These bills are bad sportsmanship.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Craig, an ally and supporter of Louise!

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Claire Ninneman, my pronouns are she/her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I believe these bills will sabotage future opportunities for trans individuals, students, and adults in terms of physical development, education, and even future career paths. The rewards other athletes reap in the form of camaraderie, scholarships, travel opportunities, school choice, future careers, etc. absolutely can be impacted by these bills, all while ostracising, excluding, and exposing them to further institutional discrimination if these kinds of bills pass. And cornering and forcing them to choose between all of this and identify wrongly endangers these children.

And for presently cisgender children around then, this will impact them as well as they learn it is okay to exclude and other trans children from activities they have a right to, and the fruits that come from them, in a climate that already struggles to manage the many forms of bullying present in schools in general and especially against trans children.

I have a nonbinary and found family nibling involved in their respective sports. My nibling has already struggled to find their niche and is, at last, participating in sports they are really enjoying and finding support in them. They already struggle in finding acceptance outside sports, not only as they are, but to feel they have the right to exist period. My nibling's well-being and future opportunities can very well be endangered by this and that is why I am speaking up.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Claire Ninneman
S. Logan Avenue #206
Milwaukee WI, 53207

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

In elementary, middle and high school, sports are something that make life worth living. Something to show up to school for, to get out of bed for, to work for, and to have a community with. Taking away the right to play a sport as the gender that you live, breathe, and identify with each and every day is taking away the right to choose a healthy lifestyle for trans children. As early as the age of 2 a child knows what gender they most identify with. To tell a child that they cannot be who they are and play sports simultaneously is stripping them of the ability to truly be free. Many trans people do not feel comfortable enough to accept themselves for who they truly are until adulthood, if ever, because of laws like this that suppress the trans community and make who they are, seem like something that's not an option. Passing these bills will only cause children who struggle with their gender identity to spiral and feel even more lost in this world. Let them be and let them play. Let them be free.

Mari Belina
N Mills St. Madison WI

Lynne Steiner
2111 Oakridge Avenue
Madison, WI 53704
May 24th, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Oppose AB195, AB196, SB 322, and SB 323 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

My name is Lynne Steiner, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As an educator and social worker in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

- Kids learn a lot of important life lessons in sports: leadership, confidence, self-respect, and what it means to be part of a team. When we tell transgender girls that they can't play girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches.
- Schools across the country know that transgender students, like any student, thrive when they are treated with dignity and respect. School officials shouldn't treat a transgender female student as a girl between 8AM-3PM and then treat her like she's a boy when sports practice starts. It's deeply hurtful to the student and disrupts the school's policy of treating all kids fairly.

It can be hard to understand what it means to be transgender, especially if you've never met a transgender person. And it's common to have questions at first. But we can all agree that transgender kids should be treated with dignity and respect, just like everyone else. As someone who works with transgender youth that are resilient, beautiful, and brilliant—this legislation is hateful and harmful to their existence. Please uplift their voices and lives and let them play sports.

- Local schools across the nation are already creating policies that protect transgender youth and ensure a level playing field for all students—and they're working. Banning transgender youth from playing sports undermines those local efforts.
- Transgender kids want the opportunity to play sports for the same reason other kids do: to be a part of a team where they feel like they belong. We shouldn't discriminate against kids and ban them from playing because they're transgender.

This is really about LGBTQ people being treated fairly across all areas of life. Respect people and their identities. Do not deny them health care, housing, or the opportunity to play sports. Let's show our kids that their school, state, and country care about them. Let's honor their childhood and development regardless of their gender identity. All people are human beings and as such and deserve dignity, respect, and inclusion.

I believe transgender children deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Lynne Steiner, APSW
School Social Worker, Madison Metropolitan School District
lynnemarie92@gmail.com

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Leslie Grant, my pronouns are she and her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I feel that not allowing people to play on teams that best align with their gender is discriminatory and I think that discrimination is wrong. When we discriminate we do not teach our children the value of full inclusion of people who experience differences from the norm. Everyone benefits from knowing people who have different life experiences.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Leslie Grant
Rough Lee Ct.
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record

As a teacher in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I pride my work and the work of those around me in our values of creating accessible education that honors our students' story and acknowledges their experiences. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity. Why? Because this legislation does not represent the values of an inclusive school district that promotes safe and equitable learning spaces for all students.

Simply stated, all students who want to participate in sports should have the freedom to do so. That includes transgender students. AB196 and AB195 are an attack to transgender students who deserve the same opportunities as any student their age, regardless of gender identity. This attack is coming from anti-LGBTQIA+ lawmakers who are openly choosing to use their leadership to attack transgender youth athletes who have the audacity to exist in our school systems. I do not stand for this and neither should any self-respecting educator who wants what is best for all students, regardless of gender identity.

We all want to ensure a level playing field in sports. The truth is, every child is different in different ways—which is why some girls excel at gymnastics, others at volleyball, some at basketball, and others at soccer. The overwhelming majority of transgender youth, like most kids, don't even play at elite levels. They just want to play everyday school sports and participate with their peers. Additionally, if these students DO excel at their sport, they deserve the opportunity to shine amongst their like-skilled peers and achieve new heights for themselves.

Transgender children are still children and it is our job as educators to protect and support them when they are in our schools.

I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Keely Johnson
Madison WI

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Max, my pronouns are He/they, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As an 8th grade student in the Madison Metropolitan School District, who is part of the LGBTQ+ community, this legislation makes me feel left out, discriminated against, and scared. I believe that these bills should not be passed! Our LGBTQ+ community has worked hard to overcome these kinds of discriminatory practices, and these bills have us moving backwards, not forwards. I believe that transgender kids should be able to play sports because we are human beings and we should have the same opportunities as cisgender kids.

I'd like to let you know three reasons why students, including transgender and nonbinary students, love to play sports: Teamwork, Sportsmanship, and Leadership. These are all important lessons which kids learn in sports and all kids should be able to have these opportunities. Most students want to play sports—to be on a team, exercise, and make friends. When we tell transgender girls that they can't participate in girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—or nonbinary kids they can't play sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches.

There's a reason those who are trying to ban transgender kids from playing sports keep repeating the same two or three examples over and over again. That's because, in a country of more than 300 million people, these are the only examples they have of transgender girls who have won these kinds of titles. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. Nonbinary children are children. I believe they all deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and nonbinary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Max Chu
Student at Madison Metropolitan School District

Sabertooth Ln Madison, WI 53719

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Mindy Trudell, my pronouns are she/her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I am a school social worker in an elementary school. In the past several years our school has worked hard to become a more supportive place for LGBTQ+ families and kids. We have worked with several families and students who have shared that they, "finally found a community where we feel welcome". We know that this feeling of belonging, of being in relationship and community are key to emotional well-being as well as academic learning. Given this, it should be our obligation in public schools to make sure that all of our students and their families, particularly LGBTQ+ and BIPOC folks who have been historically excluded, feel a sense of belonging in our educational institutions. This should extend to our sports facilities.

We know that transgender and nonbinary youth are at a much higher risk for suicide, not completing high school and other negative outcomes. We also know that participating in sports decreases these risks for students. Sports provides a sense of being part of something bigger than oneself, of responsibility to one's team, and provides a relationship with a caring adult in coaches. These are the very things that can give an additional dose of resiliency to our struggling trans and nonbinary youth.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Mindy Trudell, MSW
Elmside Blvd, Madison, WI 53704

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Kelli Martino, my pronouns are they/them, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

The benefits of participating in sports are plentiful: learning how to work hard toward a goal, how to work as a team, camaraderie, physical exercise, dedication, sportsmanship, and the list goes on. All kids should have a chance to experience these and other benefits from sports.

Sports have always been and continue to be a large part of my life. It took decades for me to understand who I am as a nonbinary person and to put into words why I rarely felt like I belonged. The exception to this was when I got to play a variety of sports throughout my childhood. It was a chance to have fun, build friendships, learn the joys and frustrations of winning and losing, and how hard work and dedication can lead to success, among other things. Participating in sports allowed me to feel like there was a place for me in the world and a way to be myself. It also was a large source of many life lessons growing up. All kids deserve the chance to experience everything that participating in sports offers.

Last but not least, I'd like to ask you to remember that trans and nonbinary people are people. We're humans that laugh, cry, celebrate, and grieve, just like you.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Kelli Martino
5 Wilton Ct, Madison WI 53704

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Regarding transgender athletes in Wisconsin

My name is Kathleen Caylor, and I am the mother of a transgender teenager. We live in Pulaski, Wisconsin. My son is graduating in a couple weeks from Pulaski High School and will be attending UW-Green Bay in the fall. He has been a gymnast since he was about two years old, competing in girls gymnastics for many years, then in boys gymnastics after he transitioned. His team was Air Force Gymnastics Academy in Green Bay, as USA Gymnastics affiliated club.

My son was born with female genitals. We raised him as a cis-gender girl through middle school, and although I dressed him in pink dresses and lace as a toddler, looking back we always knew that he wasn't a typical girl. So we gave up on the "girl clothes" and allowed our child to be a tomboy, or so we thought. But that changed in middle school when puberty began. Then the dysphoria really set in. Thankfully, our child was able to do some online research and found out about other transgender people, and he identified with their stories immediately. He was brave enough to come out to us (his parents), and we did our best to listen, learn, and support our child.

And there was a lot of learning involved.

First of all, we learned that being transgender is not a choice. It is a deeply ingrained sense of self that cannot be changed by wearing certain clothes or using certain pronouns. Pretending it does not exist does not make it go away. Pretending it doesn't exist has consequences though. It increases the odds that the child in question will become depressed and suicidal. With community support, transgender kids are just as happy and well adjusted as their peers. Without community support, their lives can be

hellish. Playing on a sports team that aligns with their gender, not their birth sex, can be a lifeline to these children. It gives them some community support.

I had grown up devoutly Catholic, and that's how I raised my children. I was taught that God created male and female, and nothing in between was mentioned. I have since learned that this is not the whole truth. Intersex babies exist! There are dozens of medical conditions that produce children who have varying degrees of male characteristics, female characteristics, or both, or neither. Did you know that doctors used to perform surgeries on newborn babies to make intersex genitals look more male or more female, without giving the baby any voice in choosing which sex they really are? These surgeries continue today in many places. Do you know what Complete Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome is? Do you know what effects it has? If you don't, you need to learn about it, because it completely disproves the idea that all children can be classified at birth as either male or female. A child with CAIS has XY chromosomes, therefore male. But the same child has no penis at birth, therefore female. But they have internal testes, therefore male. But you wouldn't know this until puberty (or lack of puberty), so for their childhood everyone will think they are a girl, because that's what they looked like at birth. Bottom line? Not all children can be neatly classified as male or female at birth! Many do not realize who they really are until puberty! Trying to classify them at birth as either or male or female is unreasonable, and it should not prevent them from participating in sports as the gender that they know they are.

For any legislators discussing this issue as a matter of religious freedom in regards to Christianity, I refer you to this verse in the Bible. "For **there are** eunuchs who **were born that way**, and **there are** eunuchs who **have been** made eunuchs by others—and **there are** those who choose to live like eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:12. Even the Bible recognizes that not all babies are born as typical male or typical female. Some are born eunuchs, which is the word that the translators came up with to denote a person born with atypical sex or gender characteristics.

These people exist. They have always existed. It is only because our society rejects them that causes them to hide who they truly are. That must end.

One of the talking points I hear from proponents of this legislation is that children born with male genitals have an advantage in sports due to having higher levels of testosterone. May I remind everyone that this testosterone boost does not occur until puberty. Pre-pubescent children are completely unaffected by this. And today, many male-to-female transgender children, the ones that you are so worried about, are able to access hormone blockers before going through puberty (with the help of trained medical professionals). There is no testosterone advantage among these girls!

You've proposed this legislation to prevent boys from identifying as girls in order to gain an advantage in sporting events. Has this been a problem? I've lived in Wisconsin all my life, and I've raised my own family here, and I've yet to hear about a boy who wants to be on a girls sports team for that reason. This legislation is pretending that a problem exists where it doesn't. This legislation only does harm, it does not help.

So how can I address your fear of boys wanting to join girls sports teams to gain an unfair advantage? Let me assure you that being transgender isn't a simple matter of waking up one morning and deciding to be transgender. When a child says they are transgender, the first thing that happens is that they are evaluated by a counselor to see if their feelings are persistent, consistent, and insistent over time, that

the feelings aren't a passing phase, and the feelings are too strong to be ignored. If appropriate, the child is allowed to transition socially, without medical intervention, in order to test out how they feel when living as the gender not assigned at birth. This is a matter of clothing, hairstyle, and pronouns: things that are easily reversible if the child is not actually transgender. Hormone therapy comes after that, and surgical intervention is possible only after the individual has been living as their true gender for years. And then there are the legal hoops to jump through to get a name change and to get gender markers changed on official documents. The effort that transgender kids and their families go through is evidence of how serious this is. It's not a capricious decision.

Kids who know that they are transgender and are willing to prove it to the world should not be prevented from participating on sports teams with other kids of the same gender. Their counselors and medical team know who they are, and their counselors and medical team can make a decision about who is truly transgender. Let them guide our public schools regarding who should be eligible to participate on which sports teams.

Legislators in Madison don't know who my son is, they cannot evaluate his status of being transgender, and it is wrong for them to write laws that harm him under the pretense of protecting girls from a non-existent threat.

This bill should be rejected.

Kathleen Caylor
Rolling Hill Dr
Pulaski, WI 54162

Subject Line: Oppose AB195, AB196, SB 322, and SB 323 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Cara Masuga, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

- All students who want to play sports, should have the freedom to play. That includes transgender youth.
- AB196 & AB195 unfairly attack transgender youth who want the same opportunities as any student their age: To join a team, stay healthy, and make friends.
- Transgender youth athletes are under attack. Anti-LGBTQ lawmakers are unfairly targeting transgender youth who deserve the same sports opportunities as anyone their age. Put an end to this attack by taking supportive action today.
- Three reasons why students, including transgender students, love to play sports: Teamwork, Sportsmanship, and Leadership. These are all important lessons which kids learn in sports. We want all kinds to be able to have these opportunities

- Anti-LGBTQ lawmakers are waging an unfair attack on transgender athletes. AB196 and AB195 are trying to exclude transgender youth from playing sports.
- All students want to play on a team, exercise and make friends. When we tell transgender girls that they can't participate in girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches.
- As a nation, we decided long ago that discrimination is wrong and that everyone should have the same opportunities to succeed in life—and that should include transgender youth.
- Schools across the country know that transgender students, like any student, thrive when they are treated with dignity and respect. School officials shouldn't treat a transgender female student as a girl between 8AM-3PM and then treat her like she's a boy when sports practice starts. It's deeply hurtful to the student and disrupts the school's policy of treating all kids fairly.
- We can celebrate girls' sports and protect transgender youth from discrimination, making sure that all young people can access the lessons and opportunities that sports afford.
- Let's remember what this is really about: whether LGBTQ people should be treated fairly across all areas of life—or whether they can be unfairly kicked out of a restaurant, denied an apartment, or denied the health care they need, just because of who they are.
- There's a reason those who are trying to ban transgender kids from playing sports keep repeating the same two or three examples over and over again. That's because, in a country of more than 300 million people, these are the only examples they have of transgender girls who have won these kinds of titles. The fact is, 99.9% of kids play sports without ever competing at any kind of elite level. And the overwhelming majority of transgender youth, like most kids, just want to play and participate in everyday school sports with their peers.
- We all want to ensure a level playing field in sports. The truth is, every child is different in different ways—which is why some girls excel at gymnastics, others at volleyball, some at basketball, and others at soccer. The overwhelming majority of transgender youth, like most kids, don't even play at elite levels. They just want to play everyday school sports and participate with their peers.

Kids learn a lot of important life lessons in sports: leadership, confidence, self-respect, and what it means to be part of a team. When we tell transgender girls that they can't play girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches.

It can be hard to understand what it means to be transgender, especially if you've never met a transgender person. And it's common to have questions at first. But we can all agree that transgender kids should be treated with dignity and respect, just like everyone else.

Local schools across the nation are already creating policies that protect transgender youth and ensure a level playing field for all students—and they're working. Banning transgender youth from playing sports undermines those local efforts.

Transgender kids want the opportunity to play sports for the same reason other kids do: to be a part of a team where they feel like they belong. We shouldn't discriminate against kids and ban them from playing because they're transgender.

Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cara Masuga
5th Grade Teacher at MMSD
Fremont Ave, Madison WI 53704

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I write as a concerned parent and community member, regarding current bills about transgender athletes that are being considered by the Wisconsin State Legislature.

I am deeply concerned at the proposal of legislation that would deny some of our neighbors and community members equal access to participation in school sports. Not only are these bills based on false premises about biological sex that medical doctors and biologists have continually refuted, but they are inherently discriminatory, creating unequal access tantamount to the various forms of racist segregation that have been so shameful to our nation's history. I sincerely hope that Wisconsin does not follow in those footsteps.

If such a bill were enacted, I am deeply concerned that school officials, particularly in public and private schools for children, would be placed in the position of verifying and policing children's genitals. I find this obsession with children's "sex" to be highly suspect and tantamount to child abuse. The matter of a student's "sex assigned at birth" is, frankly, not the business of educational institutions. Such institutions should, rather, be concerned with educating the students of Wisconsin.

These discriminatory bills will teach children that segregation and bigoted discrimination is acceptable; that denying their friends' and neighbors' rights of access to the same educational opportunities as their peers is to be tolerated. I would be ashamed to have to explain to my child that he simply should not respect either the creators or enforcers of these rules. But I will not lie to my child about inequality or hide it from him, even while he might be personally unaffected by these bills.

In truth, I would not allow my child to participate in activities that deliberately excluded his trans peers any more than I would allow him to participate in activities that deliberately excluded racial or religious minorities. Moreover, I hope that other conscientious parents and students -- from the elementary to college level -- would likewise boycott participating in discriminatory athletic organizations and urge them toward better alternatives.

As an employee of the Wisconsin state university system, I fear that bills denying trans athletes the right to participate in school sports will harm the reputation of our colleges and universities, making it increasingly difficult to recruit students to our already underfunded institutions. A bill that creates discriminatory practices in collegiate sports may well cause us to lose some of our best student athletes as well as some of our best students, more generally, who wish to attend institutions that don't discriminate against their peers. If these bills are passed, we will likely deter both in-state and out-of-state students from attending our institutions of higher learning, who will find equitable opportunities elsewhere. This may also make it more difficult for us to recruit and retain the best faculty at these institutions, as faculty with options may well want to teach at institutions at which their students do not have to spend their time fighting for basic equal rights and can instead focus on their studies.

My husband and I are both cisgender people, as is (to the best of our knowledge) our child. I write today because I believe it is the particular responsibility of privileged people to speak up against civil rights violations that will affect others who have been targeted by hate. Although these bills will not affect my family directly, I realize that these forms of legislation are often marketed as measures that will "protect" cisgender people. I want therefore to assure you that my family and I vehemently reject this pretense at protection in our names. We want to live in a society in which our trans neighbors and friends, our local college students, and our child's classmates are treated fairly. We

want our state to protect the civil rights of ALL its citizens, allowing trans students to have the same opportunities to participate in school activities as we have had, as cisgender people.

I urge the State Legislature to flatly reject these discriminatory bills and to return to issues that will actually benefit the people of Wisconsin, rather than working to deny some of our citizens their due civil rights.

Sincerely,
Dr. Brigitte Fielder
(she/her/hers)
East Dayton Street
Madison, WI 53703

Hello committee members and thank you to the chair for giving me time to speak today. My name is Oliver Gibbs, I am a transmasculine non-binary student at the University of Wisconsin – Stout and currently serving as Director of Sustainability for the Stout Student Association, the student government for the University. The SSA represents all students of campus, and on April 20th, 2021, as a legislative body we unanimously passed a resolution condemning these bills. But I must make clear I am not here for or speaking on behalf of the Stout Student Association, however I am here as an elected leader to support and represent my constituents just as you are.

First and foremost, I need to make clear that transgender women are women and deserve equal rights as cisgender individuals. Trans women experience enough discrimination everyday just living their lives, they do not need more when trying to participate in a game of club frisbee golf. Specifically targeting trans women in this bill is an act of transphobia against innocent Wisconsin LGBTQIA+ individuals and insinuates that the state has not grown empathetically or socially with shifts in gender and sexual equality.

I notice the bill states no direct reason for banning exclusively trans women instead of all trans athletes from competing in the sports that their gender aligns with. I would assume this is, and correct me if I am wrong, because of the numerous complaints of top athletes being trans women and having “an inherent biological advantage” over their cisgender competitors.

The argument of Trans women having an “inherent biological advantage” is a myth over fact. An “inherent biological advantage” could mean height, weight, bone size, or any number of varying physical factors found within same sex individuals. A cisgender woman who is five foot two inches playing against a cisgender woman who is six foot two inches is still at an inherent biological disadvantage due to the size of the same sex opponent, even differing body types and size of shoulders or hip bones of same sex individuals can be considered a disadvantage. Trans individuals, just like same sex individuals

will also have hormonal differences. Cisgender women can also have increased testosterone levels without any form of hormone therapy, and cisgender men can have increased estrogen levels as shown with the medical condition gynecomastia. Even pituitary tumors which affect sexual development, sexual dysfunction, or even changes in menstrual cycles can also affect hormone levels in cisgender men and women.

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association has also had a transgender policy in place since 2013 stating: "male-to-female student must have one calendar year of medically documented testosterone suppression therapy to be eligible to participate on a female team, consistent with WIAA policy." The WIAA has only received a "handful of complaints" in the eight years this policy has been in effect. *Source: WISN. (2021, March 4). WIAA has had few complaints about Wisconsin transgender athlete policy. WISN. <https://www.wisn.com/article/wiaa-has-had-few-complaints-about-wisconsin-transgender-athlete-policy/35717098#>.*

To end my testimony, why is it fair to your trans constituents for you to use the law against them? The goal of a trans individual is not to have an advantage over you or your children, but to live life the same as any cisgender individual. I, as a trans individual, wish I could have the same rights and expectations as my cisgender colleagues without fear of judgement or immediate failure. I urge you to view trans individuals not as "trans" compared to "cis" but as individuals wanting to live their lives as normal, happy, healthy Wisconsinites. Thank you.

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

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To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Below is my testimony in reference to AB196 & AB195:

As a small business owner in Madison, WI I oppose both bills AB195 & AB196. These bills infringe upon the rights of athletes by invalidating certain athletes' identities in harmful ways.

All the Best

Nick Ryan

Good morning everyone and thank you to the chair for giving me time to speak today. My name is Cody Gentz, I'm a student at the University of Wisconsin – Stout and lifelong Wisconsinite. I am currently serving as the Director of Financial Affairs for the Stout Student Association, our Student Government on campus. On April 20th, we as a Senate unanimously condemned this bill on behalf of the nearly 7,000 strong UW-Stout student body. I am here today to advocate against this bill, in line with the Student Association's position, but also to add my own views that are not officially affiliated or on behalf of the Student Association. I am here representing my constituents, which I am sure you can understand.

Though I am not a transgender individual, I have family, friends, and constituents who are, and it is vital that we hear and amplify their voices. It is important to state that this bill, in essence, would establish a discriminatory policy that ignores the plight of many transgender students and youth throughout our state. This bill would force transgender individuals to become someone they are not to participate in any level of sports including but not limited to intercollegiate, intramural, or club sports.

But while this bill may specifically address only sports, passing it would send a much larger message. A message that Wisconsin is intolerant and does not respect the struggles of our transgender community. On March 30th, 2021, one of the cosponsors of this bill, Representative Moses, came to speak with our Student Association and made a very good point – we need to prevent the loss of local talent. We need to make Wisconsin a place that people want to live in – we want people to stay here after college and use their talents to start businesses, contribute to our society, and enrich our communities. This bill actively works against that aim. It tells prospective UW students and the nation at large that we care more about excluding people than building an open and welcoming community.

To end my testimony, I want to emphasize that the comfort of trans and nonbinary individuals is the most important when talking about this and similar bills. This bill is unequivocally discriminatory and detrimental to the State of Wisconsin and our LGBTQIA+ communities. Thank you.

Good morning. My name is Courtney Reed Jenkins, and I am a school board member in Cambridge, Wisconsin, home of about 800 Blue Jays. I am also a parent of a girl who loves to play soccer. I'm here today to testify against Assembly Bills 195 and 196 and Senate Bills 322 and 323 because they are not designed to address real needs in Wisconsin, because they are bad law and will require public investments to defend - and likely lose - in court, and because they are out of sync with Wisconsin values.



As public servants, I know we share the value of responsive policy-making. Given that these bills affect student athletes, I am surprised that this topic has been introduced as a Wisconsin need because this is not an issue that has crossed my radar in five years of school board leadership. And in those same five years, it hasn't been quiet - I have a good pulse on the issues facing Wisconsin schools. I hear from my constituents, I hear from the amazing administrators and teachers in my district, and I hear from professional associations in Wisconsin and beyond. Not once have I heard anything about student athletes' gender identity as an issue. To put an even finer point on it: we have a strong athletic director who is active in our conference. He keeps our board members informed on the happenings within the Capitol conference, both from a formal update perspective and informal, we-live-in-small-town-Wisconsin ways; not once, in the five years I've been on the board, has gender identity in K-12 athletics been mentioned. In other words, as someone on the ground and in-the-know, I don't understand why this non-issue is what you are taking time and resources to address.

Because, frankly, there are other issues, including education-related issues, that DO need to be addressed. All year, I've heard from families in my community about the mental health needs of students, particularly during the pandemic. Parents and guardians have reached out to express concerns over student safety in schools that have decades-old HVAC systems. Our community passed a referendum to increase our operating budget by 10% because school financing in Wisconsin isn't fair.

As public servants, we also share a responsibility to be good stewards of public dollars. If enacted into law, these bills will no doubt be litigated. As U.S. District Judge David Nye wrote in his August 2020 injunction in *Hecox v. Little*, the case involving Idaho's Fairness in Women's Sports Act, the plaintiffs who challenged the law are "likely to succeed in establishing the Act is unconstitutional as currently written." Given the patchwork of laws that are springing up across the country, and the promises of stakeholder litigation, passing this bill will cost Wisconsin taxpayers. Why not wait until the dust settles and not burden taxpayers, who are divided on this issue, with the cost of defending a law?

Finally, I am opposed to these bills because they do not reflect the values I know to be true in Wisconsin. When I moved to Wisconsin over two decades ago, I found a place where folks welcomed me and my family and where there was a tolerance for the different ways folks move through the world. I deeply appreciate my school community and the way in which the adults model for learners how to accept one another and support children as they grow into adults who respect each other. Through playing soccer, my daughter has learned from her coaches and her team how to care for others in community; how to accept the unique strengths and areas of growth each player brings to the game; and how to support each other as they are growing into the humans they will become. In summary, my Wisconsin values are about community, kindness, care and compassion. I do not see these values in these bills.

Thank you for listening to me and all the others who are participating in this democratic process.



Courtney Reed Jenkins

N4390 Park Road, Cambridge, Wisconsin 53523

courtneyreedjenkins@hotmail.com

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

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To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Hello, my name is Megan Larson. I am the mother of 6 kids, 4 girls and 2 boys. My 7 year old son's best friend is a transgender boy. He was my son's best friend before transition, and his best friend after. When I ask him about this, he says it doesn't matter if he is a boy or girl, just that he is his best friend. If we couldn't all be more like children. One of the things that bonds them most is their love of sports. Sports are good for self esteem(which is hard enough to encourage in a cis gendered child), strong friendships (also hard enough for the average child), body positivity, good sportsmanship, drive, work ethic, among many other positive things. What sports should not encourage is non-inclusivity, transphobia, and lack of opportunities for transgender people to participate in something that could not only help them achieve a feeling of belonging or normalacy, but possibly even save their life. Transgender individuals are vastly more likely to take their own life than cis gendered individuals when not given the support of family, friends, and the community. Sports is an example of that community. To take that opportunity away would be dangerous and certainly not humane.

My children are in sports to learn life skills, make friends, and become good humans not to become professional athletes. They do not play sports to get scholarships. Again, they play to give them the skills to help them become good humans. Not allowing transgender athletes to participate takes away what could be a great friend, great teacher, and great lesson on how to be a kind and accepting member of society. We are all born with varying levels of athleticism trans or cis gendered. Tall or short, slow or fast. One would never ban a cis gendered child from the sport of their choosing just because they are more muscular or of greater height. Why should this be an option just because someone's gender didn't match their body at birth. My children will not participate in a sport, club or group who would not be inclusive of everyone interested in joining.

Many studies have shown that there isn't evidence of transgender player receiving more playing time or taking away from cis gendered players sports careers. Instead of focusing on this non

issue, we should instead focus on the many other things that plague sports, and the world in general. These very brave, special people, are someone's son or daughter, best friend, grandchild, neighbor, and beloved teammate. Please hear the voices of the many many people who would be devastated if the rights, given to everyone else, were taken away from them. Please withdraw bills AB 195 and AB 196.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to a concerned mother, citizen, and human being.

Sincerely,

Megan Larson
Parkview dr.
Oconomowoc wi 53066

My name is Natalie Lesnjak and I live at 451 Toepfer Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin. I am 14 years old and in 8th grade.

I don't understand this bill. What would transgender girls do if they want to play sports? Would you force them into playing on a boy's team or would you deny them access to sports all together? Denying someone access to sports is wrong and not fair to them. Forcing transgender girls to play on a boy's team is wrong and singles them out and makes them feel like they do not belong. And they don't belong because they are not boys.

I play sports and I am totally fine with transgender girls playing sports with me. I would do whatever I could to make sure a transgender girl felt like she belonged on my team. Transgender girls belong in our society and they should have the same rights that I have.

Natalie Lesnjak

09/24/21

To the Assembly Committee on Education, the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities, and the Senate Committee on Human Resources, Children and Families

My name is Dawn Matlak & I reside at 2475 N Bartlett Ave in Milwaukee.

In 2019, the Supreme Court heard the case of RG & GR Harris Funeral Homes Inc v Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, regarding the termination of a transgender employee. The 6-3 majority ruled in favor of the EEOC, affirming that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits employers from firing an employee for being transgender.

While there have been numerous cases affirming the rights of transgender students through appealing to the enforcement of Title IX of the Civil Rights Act, one of the most recent happened in Wisconsin in 2016. In *Whitaker v. Kenosha Unified School District*, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals again ruled in favor of the transgender student.

Far be it for me, a nonbinary trans person who grew up playing sports, to appeal to you on the basis of ethical arguments, to tell you that proposed bills like these contribute to the rise of anti-transgender hate crimes, perpetuate a divisive culture of fear and hostility, and increase the rate of suicide among transgender youth.

So my appeal is to your sense of fiscal responsibility. Proposed bills like these serve only to tie up state money in lawsuits that will not be won. Where is the proposed budget line item for this? And how can you possibly justify the many many costs?

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Courtney Ramirez, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

Anti-LGBTQ lawmakers are waging an unfair attack on transgender athletes. AB196 and AB195 are trying to exclude transgender youth from playing sports. We all want to ensure a level playing field in sports. The truth is, every child is different in different ways—which is why some girls excel at gymnastics, others at volleyball, some at basketball, and others at soccer. The overwhelming majority of transgender youth, like most kids, don't even play at elite levels. They just want to play everyday school sports and participate with their peers. I strongly believe that any youth who want to play sports have the freedom to play; and this MUST include transgender youth. AB196 & AB195 unfairly attack transgender youth who want the same opportunities as any student their age: To join a team, stay healthy, and make friends. All students want to play on a team, exercise and make friends. When we tell transgender girls that they can't participate in girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches.

I understand that can be hard to understand what it means to be transgender, especially if you've never met a transgender person. And it's common to have questions at first. But we can all agree that transgender kids should be treated with dignity and respect, just like everyone else. I urge you to not let your ignorance on the subject drive your decision making. As a parent, an educator and a community member, I refuse to stand by and see adults making devastating decisions that will have grave effects on the health and well-being of our youth.

Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Courtney Ramirez
MMSD teacher and parent
(608) 347-0875

To the Assembly Committee on Education, the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities, and the Senate Committee on Human Resources, Children and Families

Written Testimony in Opposition to AB195 & 196, SB322 & 323

Members of the Committee,

My name is Analiese Eicher, I live in Sun Prairie, WI, and I am the chair of the Dane County Board of Supervisors. While the Dane County Board is in the process of approving legislation opposing these bills, I am writing to you today in my personal capacity.

I have been an athlete all my life. My favorite sport is soccer. I started playing for fun in kindergarten, competitively in late elementary through high school, recreationally in college, and I still play pick up with a group of adults in my community today.

In addition to being a player, I have had the honor and privilege of holding the title of Coach for the past 7 years. I am a United States Soccer Federation certified soccer coach and have coached dozens of players - all ages and skill levels. The first group of kids I ever coached graduates high school this year, which makes me feel old.

As coaches we teach individual skills and team skills. We also teach respect, sportsmanship, and the love of the game. And most importantly we have fun.

Talent is talent. Hard work is hard work. And having good sportsmanship is having good sportsmanship. How a player identifies is not a factor in their success on or off the field. But how we as coaches, as a society, and as humans treat players matters and does impact their success on and off the field.

Forwarding these bills out of committee will have no positive impact on the sport that I and countless others love to coach, play, and watch.

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Analiese Eicher

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the member of the Assembly Committee On Colleges and Universities; Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education, Representative Witke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rosar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Our names are David and Debbie Walton, our pronouns are he/him/his and she/her/hers respectively, and we are writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

We strongly believe that legislation such as this would be harmful to children. Although all who take part hope to be victorious, we believe that the most important benefits received from participation in youth and interscholastic athletics are the satisfaction the children derive from the experience of developing and honing their skills in their chosen sport, and the great joys found in cooperating and working together with their teammates toward a common goal. We would offer that these bills would stifle these opportunities for many, many youth while "protecting" very few if any cis athletes from unfair competition as the bills' supporters would insist.

We are the parents of a nonbinary, transgender offspring, and as such have some experience with the impediments our society places in their path. We also have personally experienced the benefits available from participation in youth and interscholastic athletics, many of which we have carried forward to

this day. The effects of passage of these bills would likely be to greatly impede the physical and emotional development, and the ability to enjoy life, for many of our youth, while not in any likelihood actually benefiting anyone. Please do not enact them.

Sincerely,

David Walton
Debbie Walton
Road J, Unit 1
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Statement from Rachel Crowl Resident of Appleton, Wisconsin

Since I can remember and all the way through my twenties I knew I was different. That I was trans. That I was female. I KNEW THIS.

I also knew that I better not tell a soul because this was the 80s and the 90s and the world I lived in had no room for me being transgender. It wasn't until I found enough courage equal to the desperation I felt to finally transition. It also helped that by that time I had loved ones who accepted me fully. That helps.

I did have to give up my acting career because at the time all that was available for me to play was some variation of a hooker. Dead or alive.

So I retired and we moved to Wisconsin and I got on with my life. But all those years I wasn't acting? I can't get those years back. In 2017 I rolled the dice and to my surprise I have a healthy acting career that takes me to stages and sets all over the country.

Because times have changed.

Now, young people who realize they're trans? The world has changed, my friends and very much so for the better. There's a chance now that they won't have to have years and years of anguish trying to hide or be something they're not. They have a chance to live those years as themselves and that's truly wonderful.

It's not perfect, obviously. I wouldn't be here if it were.

The bills you are considering today will truly have harmful repercussions for our trans youth.

When your government goes out of its way to regulate and legislate who you are in a way that singles you out for special – not better – treatment. That sends a message.

Being young is not easy in a very complicated world. Being trans is not easy because it's not easy. It's not a thing you wake up one day and say, "Gee, I'd like to turn my entire life upside down and risk censure and abandonment from those I love. Sure, I'd totally choose that!"

Not.

The legislation you are considering will only further complicate young people's lives when they're already so very complicated. It lacks empathy and it singles out a tiny group of people for a kind of public ridicule.

When I travel people ask me about what it's like to live in Wisconsin as if it were some mysterious place. Most of the time I only have good things to say. But this? This is embarrassing and cruel and needless.

I very much hope that you will find it in your hearts to just let kids play and get on with actually important stuff.

Thank you for your time.

Dear Assembly and Senate Members,

Sports are important, but not for the reasons that many people think. I would know; I was in high school cross country for three years, and consistently was one of the slowest people on the team. But besides being the easiest way that I could earn a letter in sports, it was a way for me to make friends, create a healthy lifestyle, and learn good habits as a growing teenager. Although not all youth are into sports, this is still an important part of the lives of many. Sure, some people will excel at sports, and potentially make it into a college opportunity or more, but for a lot of school kids and college students, it's a way to enjoy yourself in a competitive environment and create bonds with your friends and teammates.

When you ban transgender youth from participating in sports with their friends, you aren't protecting the cisgender children; you're harming everyone. You take away the opportunity for these kids to grow and compete and enjoy themselves. Passing this bill would pit youth against each other instead of teaching them teamwork and sportsmanship, which is generally the main point of non-professional sports. And beyond that, passing this bill would show all transgender youth, not just the ones in sports, that the Wisconsin government is willing to go out of its way to cause them grief and harm. If this bill passes, Wisconsin youth will grow up believing that the legislature does not have their best interests at heart, and is not there to represent and support the needs of themselves and those that they care about. The simplest thing that can be done, as adults looking to do what is best for children and young adults, is to not give hateful bills like this the time of day.

As adults, we need to model love, compassion, teamwork, and respect for others so youth and young adults can grow up to do the same in the future. Please model these values by voting against this legislation and letting all Wisconsin kids thrive authentically and enjoy the benefits of participating in sports.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ash Lyke (he/his/him)

To the Assembly Committee on Education, the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities, and the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families

Good morning. My name is Amber Lefers, and I am both a trans woman and a kid who greatly benefited from playing sports, and because I had a chance to play sports, this state is benefiting from the joy that I got from playing.

You see, my dad knew I loved sports. So he made a deal with me - do well in school, and you can keep playing. So I focused, graduated as a valedictorian in grade school, 3rd in my class in HS, finished second in a state level chemistry competition, graduated with a bachelors in engineering with minors in both math and physics, and a masters degree in engineering from the UW Madison. I am now a highly successful engineer who makes six figures that helps pay your salaries. I lead a section of my firm that brings in millions of dollars to combat the impacts of floods and droughts. Much of this is because I learned to work my tail off in school and sports.

You've heard here today that kids assigned male at birth have immutable advantages. That's flat out wrong. You might think, you're tall. I will counter that by saying that my grandma who grew up in the dust bowl in South Dakota, was 6'3", taller than me. My mom was 6'1".

- I was not just an athlete. I was good, and I would not have dreamed of competing in the women's division prior to taking hormones. And it's had a profound effect on my endurance and strength. I won conference in college without practicing prior to starting hormones. Now - I can barely jump. I could run a sub 7 minute mile - decently fast but certainly no threat to anyone, girl or boy. Now - I'm happy if I break 930 minute mile.
-
- This is in comparison to my friends daughter who is vying for the Olympic trials who is a "biological female" who just ran a sub 5 minute mile for over 6 miles. Why? Cause she also works hard and she has an insane biological advantage - a max VO2 that is off the charts.

In summary, taking hormones levels the playing field, and this is currently required. This law accomplishes only one thing - fake outrage for an invented problem.

Thank you,
Amber Lefers
Madison, WI 53715

Amber Lefers, PE*
***WI, ND, SD, MN, UT, MT, CO, IL**
Water Resources Practice Leader
Advanced Engineering and

Environmental Services, Inc. (AE2S)

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Madison, WI 53713

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May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I'm writing in opposition of AB195 and 196.

I was captain of my college rugby team. Playing rugby helped me through a difficult coming out period and saved me from so many moments of feeling lost. My team meant that I always had a coach and a group of peers supporting me, especially when I became uncertain if my family would anymore.

As a gay woman, I'm so grateful for this support. I'm horrified that vulnerable transgender youth would be denied this opportunity. I have loved ones whose only friends were teammates and it's how they survived bullying and severe mental health issues as teenagers.

Also, I have two cisgender children, a little girl and boy. One of my kids is incredibly competitive and whether or not they win is a huge deal to them. I have absolutely no problem with them playing with transgender children on their sports team. I figure the more kids in sports for my kids to play with and against, the better off they will be.

Please do not let this hateful and dangerous legislation pass. It's life and death for some of our most precious children and teens.

-Joanne

Joanne Mani
Birch Ave,
Madison WI 53711

MICHAEL J. EDMONDS

5509 Russett Road
Madison, Wisconsin 53711
m.edmonds@sbcglobal.net
608.843.0292

May 26, 2021

Members, Assembly Committee on Education
Members, Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities
Members, Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families
Wisconsin State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Re: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323

Dear Representatives and Senators:

I urge you to vote against these bills.

I was a skinny kid. Geeky, before geeky was a word. Too small for football. Couldn't hit a curve ball. On ice, about as fast as a Zamboni. But I desperately wanted to be part of a team. So I did the only thing I could – I became a long distance runner.

Like a lot of high school kids, I was trying to figure out who I was. Being a member of the cross-country team allowed me to be someone - a runner, part of a team - while I figured out who I was. It allowed me to be part of a group of people who had my back, who accepted me despite my geekiness.

Kids learn a lot of important life lessons in sports, including leadership, confidence, self-respect, and what it means to be part of a team. When we tell transgender girls that they cannot play girls' sports or transgender boys that they cannot play boys' sports, we deny them this important childhood experience and all the lessons sports teach. This is unfair.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Edmonds

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I'm writing to urge lawmakers to oppose AB195 & AB196. All children should be treated fairly and allowed to participate in athletics. No one should be excluded because of their gender identity. Please oppose this bill.

Jessica Viesselmann
Middleton, WI 53562

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I am submitting my written testimony against WI ABs 195 & 196 and SBs 322 & 323.

I object to these bills on two main points:

- Although these bills are ostensibly written to protect women's sports, in reality these bills will discriminate against transgender youth.
- The "problem" these bills address simply does not exist. Our legislature would be better served working on solutions to problems that actually affect Wisconsinites.

The argument in favor of these bills is based primarily on the fact that transgender women will have some "unfair" advantage if they participate in women's sports based on higher levels of testosterone. This is simply not evidence based:

- The Olympics have had policies allowing transgender athletes to compete on teams that match their gender identity since 2004. In the 15 years since these policies were enacted, there has been no evidence the unfair advantage that these bills pretend to protect against.
- Cisgendered women with polycystic ovarian syndrome also have higher levels of testosterone. We do not have any policies prohibiting them from playing women's sports.
- Transgender children suffer from higher rates of homelessness, poverty, anxiety, depression, and bullying. These laws only serve to needlessly discriminate against transgender youth. Participation on sports teams that match their gender identity is one way to provide support for this population. All athletes, both cis and trans gender, can only benefit from an increased diversity on their sports teams.
- Facts cited from <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/trans-girls-belong-on-girls-sports-teams/>

Additionally, as a concerned Wisconsinite, I am question the very notion that this subject should even take up legislative time. Our legislature was the least active legislature in the United States throughout the COVID pandemic. Our legislature should be working on COVID relief bills. While the legislature cannot cite even one case where transgender athletes caused harm by

participating on sports team that match their gender identity, in Wisconsin there have been 608,432 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 6,989 deaths (Source: dhs.wisconsin.gov). I would implore the legislature to vote against these discriminatory bills that address a nonexistent problem. I would also implore the legislature to stay focused on addressing problems that actually affect Wisconsinites.

Thank you.
Charles McKain
Madison, WI

Senator Jacque (Chair)

Senator Ballweg (Vice-Chair)

Committee on Human Services, Children and Families

Amy Lyle

Mt. Horeb, WI

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Opposition to SB 322

Being a student athlete can be an incredible part of a young person's life and teaches many important skills including lessons on leadership, integrity, hard work, how to win, and how to lose. For me, the most important part of being on my high school volleyball team for four years was that I felt that I belonged. That I was an important part of my school community and I had a part to play in it.

I'm coming to you today as the parent of a non-binary child, asking you not to take away any child's opportunity to have those same lessons and that critical sense of belonging available in school sports. I'm asking you to treat my child and all trans and non-binary children as you would any other children in the State of Wisconsin.

There are trans students playing sports in Wisconsin schools right now who are thriving and who deserve to continue to be able play alongside their teammates, not be singled out and placed on the "other" team which would ostensibly be the "trans" team, further stigmatizing and marginalizing an already at risk group of children.

When we know that LGBTQ+ youth who have at least one supportive adult in their life are 40% less likely to attempt suicide, why wouldn't we want that supportive adult to be the girls' soccer coach or the girls' volleyball coach?

We need to be doing everything we can to support trans and non-binary youth in Wisconsin and preserving access to sports along with their same-gender peers just makes sense. Bills like SB 322 take decision-making power away local school districts, schools, and coaches—and most importantly, risk real, lasting harm to youth in the process. Harm to all girls, including trans girls, all of whom could be asked to provide proof of their gender, if questioned. And for what? Trans girls are not dominating girls sports in this state. This is a false narrative and seems to be an incredibly harmful solution looking for a problem that simply doesn't exist.

Members of the committee - I am asking you, as a parent, to please vote against SB 322 and just - let them play. Thank you.

Protect Trans Students

Lydia Rhoads

Five years ago I moved to Wisconsin with my husband and our young children. Over a thousand miles from any family, we went about the business of seeking out community and putting down roots. We chose the North East area of the state when search after search listed Appleton and the surrounding Fox Valley as safe and family friendly.

It wasn't long after our move that our oldest child found the words to tell us about her true self. She began to socially transition with our full support. The safety we had hoped to find turned out to be an illusion. Transphobia reared its ugly head time and time again. She lost friends when their parents refused to allow my daughter to play with their children. A stranger took it upon himself to teach her fear when he stopped to scream profanities as my daughter walked to the playground with her father. At her first school the principal asked not how she could support my daughter, but what to do when other parents found out. She was mistreated by her classmates and traumatized by her experiences.

It has taken over a year of homeschooling, therapy, and a move to a new town and school system for my daughter to feel safe returning to the classroom. At present she is attending a school where she has only ever been known by her chosen, now legal, name. Her classmates have only ever known her true self. She is making friends and she is asking to play school sports in the future with her friends and peers.

For my daughter to ask to join a team is a monumental success and should be celebrated. Instead laws are being considered to keep her off of teams that would benefit her physical, mental, and emotional health.

In Wisconsin there are limitations enough that make the lives of transgender residents more difficult and dangerous than that of their cisgender counterparts. Transgender residents are required to undergo surgery before their legal documents such as birth certificates and drivers' licenses can be corrected. Many are unable to meet this requirement and as such are outed every time they need to show these documents, and are thus placed in potential danger.

Don't add another barrier to equity. Don't force my daughter and all those like her to choose between outing themselves and participating in school sports with their peers. Don't legalize transphobia and expose countless students to trauma.

I believe Wisconsin can be better. Tell all transgender residents, no matter their age, that they are welcome, valued, and their rights will be protected. Vote against the proposed legislation and take a step towards bringing Wisconsin into a future of equity and justice.

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Maureen, my pronouns are she and her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate in sports teams that **best align with their gender**.

I feel strongly about trans inclusion in sports. We need to allow all children to feel safe with how they identify and, equally valued and served.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,
Maureen Cassidy
Winnebago Street
Madison WI 53704

Representative Thiesfeldt (Chair)
Representative Kitchens (Vice-Chair)
Committee on Education

Ashley Green
Mt. Horeb, WI
Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Opposition to AB 196

Like many of you here and outside this chamber, I identify as a straight, cisgender person. By virtue of belonging to that group, I'm part of a citizen majority who are well protected and deeply privileged. I can rest soundly at night knowing that I will never be subject to legislation that excludes me from many of those privileges that we take for granted.

I am, however, father to a child who identifies as gender non-binary and whose own privileges, sadly, I can no longer take for granted. We are friends to other families in our small community of Mount Horeb who have transgender children, some of whom play sports, others who do not. Whether they do or do not does not matter: what is important is that transgender and non-binary children continue to be included and have access to school sports in a manner that fully affirms their gender identity.

The issue that this bill purports to correct is not an issue in Mount Horeb, nor is it elsewhere in Wisconsin. Any potential concerns about fairness in sports can easily be adjudicated by local school boards on a case by case basis. Assembly Bill 196 takes control of decision making power from local communities where it belongs.

While this bill solves no problem in Mount Horeb, it creates harm to innocent children in our community. With an already far higher than average incidence of depression, self-harm, and suicide, every act or word that calls into question whether trans-boys are really boys or trans-girls are really girls assails the basic human dignity of these children and further wounds their mental health well-being. The simple joy of playing a team sport with their peers, a pat on the back by a proud coach, the feeling of belonging with others to an experience that is uniquely human - these are real life-lines for trans and non-binary children who love and suffer just as you and I.

I ask that you please vote against Assembly Bill 196.

Thank you,
Ashley Green

Committee on Education

Kaitlin Hardin
Madison Metropolitan School District
Contact Number: (262)-880-3038

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Subject: Oppose AB195 and AB196 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

As a social worker and educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply troubled by the decisions our legislators have made to introduce a bill that would limit our transgender students' involvement in athletics. Our job is to ensure equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning environments, not just in the classroom, but in our communities as well. It is our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all of our students. I strongly oppose AB196, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on sports teams that align with their gender identity.

All students who want to play sports, should have the freedom to play. That includes youth who identify as transgender. AB196 & AB195 unfairly attack transgender youth who want the same opportunities as any student their age: To join a team, stay healthy, and make friends. Sports not only provide students with a sense of community and friendship, they also teach students about teamwork, sportsmanship, and leadership; life skills that allow them to become responsible adults. If this legislation is passed, we are telling our trans youth that their identity doesn't matter and we are saying that discrimination is okay. We should be celebrating differences rather than squandering opportunities for our students.

Transgender kids deserve the same opportunities as everyone else. They are our students, neighbors, and family members. They are no different than any other child. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB196. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kaitlin Hardin
School Social Worker
Madison Metropolitan School District
3814 Atwood Ave. Madison, WI 53714

Representative Thiesfeldt (Chair)
Representative Kitchens (Vice-Chair)
Committee on Education

Amy Lyle
Mt. Horeb, WI

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Opposition to AB 196

Being a student athlete can be an incredible part of a young person's life and teaches many important skills including lessons on leadership, integrity, hard work, how to win, and how to lose. For me, the most important part of being on my high school volleyball team for four years was that I felt that I belonged. That I was an important part of my school community and I had a part to play in it.

I'm coming to you today as the parent of a non-binary child, asking you not to take away any child's opportunity to have those same lessons and that critical sense of belonging available in school sports. I'm asking you to treat my child and all trans and non-binary children as you would any other children in the State of Wisconsin.

There are trans students playing sports in Wisconsin schools right now who are thriving and who deserve to continue to be able play alongside their teammates, not be singled out and placed on the "other" team which would ostensibly be the "trans" team, further stigmatizing and marginalizing an already at risk group of children.

When we know that LGBTQ+ youth who have at least one supportive adult in their life are 40% less likely to attempt suicide, why wouldn't we want that supportive adult to be the girls' soccer coach or the girls' volleyball coach?

We need to be doing everything we can to support trans and non-binary youth in Wisconsin and preserving access to sports along with their same-gender peers just makes sense. Bills like AB 196 take decision-making power away local school districts, schools, and coaches—and most importantly, risk real, lasting harm to youth in the process. Harm to all girls, including trans girls, all of whom could be asked to provide proof of their gender, if questioned. And for what? Trans girls are not dominating girls sports in this state. This is a false narrative and seems to be an incredibly harmful solution looking for a problem that simply doesn't exist.

Members of the committee - I am asking you, as a parent, to please vote against AB 196 and just - let them play. Thank you.

Subject Line: Oppose AB195, AB196, SB 322, and SB 323 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Kari Rongstad, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I have made my teaching career about affirming, honoring and valuing all students. My identity has very much become about these values and making them real in my classroom and school building. I believe that these values anchor work against racism, homophobia, transphobia, and all ways that students are othered in school spaces. With these values in mind, I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323 which would undermine this work that is so much a part of who I am as an educator and person. These bills very much betray how I believe Wisconsin should treat all of its citizens, its transgender citizens included.

I oppose these proposed bills for many reasons, but at the core, because these bills undermine and dehumanize kids. By banning children from playing sports on teams with their peers, these bills further alienate and harm some of our most marginalized youth. These children want to play sports with their friends, kick a soccer ball around, pick dandelions when they're in right field, work up the nerve to try a reverse pike off the diving board. These experiences are very much a part of so many young people's lives. That's all trans kids want to be included in.

The fear-mongering that these bills reflect is completely misplaced and misguided. The situations in which trans girls are dominating their sport are entirely hypothetical and, in a country of 300 million people, have rarely come to pass. Most student athletes are mediocre. The same goes for trans students. In the eight years since the California Interscholastic Federation began allowing trans youth athletes to compete on the gendered teams that they identified, not a single trans athlete was so dominant that there was any controversy.

These bills would only serve to contribute to a society in which more than half of transgender children seriously consider suicide. Bills like these are one of the reasons why many trans kids don't feel accepted and loved in our society.

As a high school student, I learned so much about myself through playing sports. Playing soccer and ultimate frisbee and participating in dance team allowed me to learn about my body and health, but also to build relationships and community with my peers and develop my skills as a leader. Passing these bills would deprive trans children of these same opportunities that I, and so many of Wisconsin's adults and youth, have depended on.

Ultimately, these bills are the epitome of discrimination. These bills directly and unfairly target transgender children and would rob them of opportunities that cisgender children would freely have. These bills would also contribute to an environment in which transgender children feel so unseen and unvalued that many seriously consider taking their own lives. With these things in mind, again, I oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 3230--children's lives are at stake here. Let them play sports. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kari Rongstad

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Karl Thornton, my pronouns are he/his, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. I firmly believe that transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I don't normally write emails of this type, but the bills currently being introduced look like bad solutions in search of problems. , not as a means of pandering on a divisive issue that will only hurt children. I am not worried about my kids being trans or having trans teammates. I am worried about them being exposed at a young age to the idea that they or their classmates can be excluded from activities simply because of who they are. I am worried about the real harm they or those they care about will be exposed to if these bills pass. I believe that the concerns of the bill's proponents can be addressed by communication with the trans and non-binary community, and are far outweighed by the danger it presents to the kids it targets. Youth sports deserve support through funding and encouragement, not through acts like these.

Thank you for your time. I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,
Karl Thornton
6310 Pheasant R

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Kelli Sermau, my pronouns are She/Her/Hers, and I am writing to **oppose** the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As a School Social Worker in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity. These bills are direct attacks on students, and have no place in our state.

As a nation, we decided long ago that discrimination is wrong and that everyone should have the same opportunities to succeed in life—and that should include our transgender youth. All students want to play on a team, exercise and make friends. When we tell transgender girls that they can't participate in girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches. Schools across the country know that transgender students, like any student, thrive when they are treated with dignity and respect. School officials shouldn't treat a transgender female student as a girl between 8AM-3PM and then treat her like she's a boy when sports practice starts.

It can be hard to understand what it means to be transgender, especially if you've never met a transgender person. And it's common to have questions at first. But we can all

agree that transgender kids should be treated with dignity and respect, just like everyone else. Over the past three years I have had the privilege to support and meet with transgender youth in our community, as well as surrounding counties. During our time together we read stories. We listen to music and have zoom dance parties. We play games. We talk about our lives and the lives of those we love. The only difference between these conversations and conversations I have with my cisgender students is that these conversations are happening during our monthly scheduled support group.

Transgender children are children. They deserve to live authentically without discrimination. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kelli Semrau, MSW
School Social Worker - Madison Metropolitan School District

Capital High-Eastside & Capital High- Marquette
E Dayton St, Madison WI 53703

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Joel Jarosky, my pronouns are He/Him/His, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender. As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

Kids learn a lot of important life lessons in sports: leadership, confidence, self-respect, and what it means to be part of a team. When we tell transgender girls that they can't play girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches. It can be hard to understand what it means to be transgender, especially if you've never met a transgender person. And it's common to have questions at first. But we can all agree that transgender kids should be treated with dignity and respect, just like everyone else. Local schools across the nation are already creating policies that protect transgender youth and ensure a level playing field for all students—and they're working. Banning transgender youth from playing sports undermines those local efforts. Transgender kids want the opportunity to play sports for the same reason other kids do: to be a part of a team where they feel like they belong. We shouldn't discriminate against kids and ban them from playing

because they're transgender. Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joel Jarosky
Madison Metropolitan School District
jjarosky@gmail.com

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

My name is Romana Shemayev, my pronouns are She/Her and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender. I feel very strongly that children can sense their true gender at a very young age. To disallow them to participate on sports teams which best align with their true sense of self is cruel and harmful.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote NO on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.
Sincerely,

Romana Shemayev
4813 Winnequah Road
Monona, WI 53716

Subject Line: Oppose AB195, AB196, SB 322, and SB 323 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Sally Parks, my pronouns are she, her, hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As a parent and principal in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to creating schools where all children feel welcomed and supported. It is our responsibility to create a safe and non discriminatory environment for all our scholars. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

Sports are an important part of childhood and the learning experience. All students should have the opportunity to participate in a sport they love as their authentic selves. Through sports children learn the importance of teamwork and good sportsmanship. Many student athletes also develop leadership skills. Transgender youth should have these opportunities also.

As a parent, I want my child's transgender peers to be a part of the sports team that aligns with their gender identity. My daughter, like most kids, plays sports to have fun, develop friendships, and to be healthy. It would hurtful for transgender youths to not be a part of this experience. This type of discrimination would be wrong and unjust.

All children need to live their lives as their authentic selves. I oppose the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sally A Parks

Parent and Principal in Madison Metropolitan School District

Stonebridge Dr.

Madison, WI 53719

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

May it please the committee:

My name is Nicki Vander Meulen and my pronouns are she,her,hers. I am writing you today to urge you to vote against AB195/SB323 and AB196/SB322 as hate has no place in the Wisconsin State Constitution.

AB 195 and AB196 and their Senate counterparts will further remove trans children from their community and school activities. This forced removal of trans athletes will harm students mental and physical health.

“According to a recent **Center for American Progress report**, transgender youth are more likely to experience depression, suicidal ideation, bullying, harassment, violence, and rejection from their peers than their cisgender classmates. Trans-affirming policies, including those around inclusion in sports, mitigate those factors.”

This bill doesn't protect women's sports instead it legalizes discrimination against our trans youth . Please vote no on AB 195 and 196 and SB322 and SB323.

Sincerely,
Nicki Vander Meulen
MMSD School Board member Seat 7.

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I am a homeowner in Madison, WI and the proud mom of three children. One of my kids graduated from a Madison high school recently. My youngest is homeschooled.

One of my kids is non-binary, one is gender fluid and the other is cisgender female identifying.

I wish this to show my direct opposition to the incredibly harmful bills being presented to stop trans children from participating in school sports.

Thank you.

Ophelia Bailly
Madison
608-957-2103

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Marianne Matt, my pronouns are she/her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I personally feel strongly about trans inclusion in sports as a former high school athlete and adult athlete. Being able to play a sport enables individuals to better understand themselves, better understand how they work on a team, and learn to collaborate in different and stressful situations. These are life skills that should not be denied to any human.

As a young athlete in middle school I was lucky to be included on the basketball team despite the fact that I was not a skilled player. The team building and camaraderie helped me to form an identity that I still carry today.

As an adult, I had the privilege of playing a full-contact team sport with all types of women. Transgender women were just one of the groups of people with whom I played and there was never a situation where I felt unequal in terms of size or strength.

The transgender teammates, friends, and acquaintances I have are really important to my life and they also deserve to be treated the same as any other

human in this country. If we purport that we are all created equal in the United States and that we all have the right to the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness, this extends to all our citizens no matter how they identify their gender. Humans are humans; children are children and should be allowed to live as they identify and play sports with those whom they identify.
Stop the hate. Start embracing love.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote **NO** on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Marianne Matt
4925 Spaanem Ave
Madison, WI 53716

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Amanda Hoffman, and I have been a Madison, Wisconsin resident for 6 years. Trans people have been sharing that they need support in fighting discrimination.

Children's lives are on the line, which is why I am fighting these bills. I am a volunteer for The Trevor Project, which runs national hotlines for LGBTQA+ youth in crisis. This work is meaningful because life is hard for trans youth - we hear from trans voices that it is not being trans that hurts, but living in a transphobic society. In a national study, 40% of transgender adults reported having made a suicide attempt. 92% of these individuals reported having attempted suicide before the age of 25.

Children's lives are on the line. It's hard to want to keep living in a world that tells you that you are dangerous and disgusting.

Amanda Hoffman
1005 Oakland Ave
Madison, WI 53711

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Kelly Hilyard, my pronouns are she/her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I am a cis-gendered former two sport college athlete. I would like to provide support for trans athletes as their teammate, and as someone who understand the nature of competitive sports, the competitiveness of scholarships coming out of high school, and the inclusionary reality of a team sport.

First however I'd like to address "exclusion." One of the top reasons I hear for excluding trans athletes in female sports is about trans athletes taking scholarships and opportunities away from other female athletes. To me a more pressing problem, if exclusion is truly the concern, is to look at what holds back female athletes currently – I'm more concerned about the inequities of sport club fees, the time and transportation needed for youth to access club sports teams in the off-season, the fees during school in season, the huge disparities between suburban schools with money and sporting programs and facilities that rival colleges, with less resource rich schools in cities or low-income areas. The exclusion there is along racial lines in many cases. There are so many young girls who never get the chance to try a sport because they lack access to sports programs for various reasons. As far as scholarships go, most female athletes competing at a level high enough to earn a scholarship could quite frankly out-perform most boys in their grade in their chosen sport. The chances of a trans athlete who is transitioning from male to female during high school does not pose a threat to these women as far as scholarships go any more than other top-performing athletes.

Lastly, sports teach individuals many lessons. The greatest lesson is how to work with other people, together, to achieve a higher skill level. You learn on a team that every single member brings different talents to the court/track. You learn from them all and lift one another up.

Including trans athletes and non-binary athletes is a natural fit into the nature of how sports function. Sports, in their best moments, are incredibly oriented towards inclusion. It does not sit with me well to see so many non-athletes who might not understand this, worried about a zero sum game with inclusion when so many athletes see inclusion of trans athletes as a net positive for sports, teams, and their larger community in general. We all want to belong. We'll all do better when we all belong. I can speak for my teammates on my two college teams as well- we support trans athletes and non-binary competitors at all levels of sports and feel it is important especially during the middle/high school years to let kids be kids and play the game.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Kelly Hilyard
North Avenue
Middleton, WI 53562

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

As a female, Christian, and former NCAA Division One athlete, I Strongly Oppose the legislation proposed to ban transgender athletes from competition at any level.

Darby Puglielli
Rutledge St
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

- Schools across the country know that transgender students, like any student, thrive when they are treated with dignity and respect. School officials shouldn't treat a transgender female student as a girl between 8AM-3PM and then treat her like she's a boy when sports practice starts. It's deeply hurtful to the student and disrupts the school's policy of treating all kids fairly.
 - Let's remember what this is really about: whether LGBTQ people should be treated fairly across all areas of life—or whether they can be unfairly kicked out of a restaurant, denied an apartment, or denied the health care they need, just because of who they are.
- This is a crucial time for ALL children to feel that they BELONG!
- No one deserves to be denied this most basic of human rights!
- As a parent and an educator of children in this group, please consider their feelings and futures!

Thanks,

Cyndi Burleson
SEA
She, her, hers

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Subject: Oppose AB195 and AB196 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply troubled by the decisions our legislators have made to introduce a bill that would limit our transgender students' involvement in athletics. Our job is to ensure equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning environments, not just in the classroom, but in our communities as well. It is our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all our students. I strongly oppose AB196, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on sports teams that aligns with their gender identity.

All students who want to play sports, should have the freedom to play. That includes transgender youth. AB196 & AB195 unfairly attack transgender youth who want the same opportunities as any student their age: To join a team, stay healthy, and make friends. Sports not only provide students with a sense of community and friendship, they also teach students about teamwork, sportsmanship, and leadership; life skills that allow them to become responsible adults. If this legislation is passed, we are telling our trans youth that their identity doesn't matter and we are saying that discrimination is okay. We should be celebrating differences rather than squandering opportunities for our students.

Transgender kids deserve the same opportunities as everyone else. They are our students, neighbors, and family members. They are no different than any other child. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB196.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mercedez Lopez
Madison WI

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Nancy Thome, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. I am a member of the Baraboo School Board and chair the Policy Committee, but the opinions expressed in this written testimony are my own. I am not authorized to speak for the full school board.

Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

Trans inclusion in sports is very important because self-harm, suicide ideation, and suicide occur amongst trans adolescents at a much higher rate than amongst the general adolescent population.

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2020/?section=Introduction>

The best way to lower these rates amongst trans adolescents is to show them acceptance and compassion, not to exclude them from one of the most important adolescent extra-curricular activities, sports, or to require them to play on a team based on the gender they were assigned at birth.

Although the Baraboo School District is a small, rural district, we were one of the earliest school districts in the state to adopt an inclusive transgender bathroom and locker room policy. We have had no problems.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Nancy Thome
330 13th St.
Baraboo, WI 53913

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I'm writing today as a female athlete who has benefitted from Title IX and as the mother of an elementary-age girl who has and will likely continue to participate in sports. And on both our behalf, I say: don't do this in our name. AB 195 and 196 do not protect us and, more importantly, we do not need protection. We welcome the opportunity to play alongside and compete with trans women and girls. As my second-grader knows, the purpose of sports is to have fun, learn healthy skills for competition, develop as a team player, and move our bodies in healthy ways. We both also like winning and getting recognition for our skills. Competing with trans female athletes doesn't take that away. But even if it did, we wouldn't rather #LetKidsPlay. We certainly don't need legislation that pretends to protect us but actually harms our trans teammates and competitors.

Christa Olson
Fox Avenue
Madison, WI 53711

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Megan Allen, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

Kids learn a lot of important life lessons in sports: leadership, confidence, self-respect, and what it means to be part of a team. When we tell transgender girls that they can't play girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches.

It can be hard to understand what it means to be transgender, especially if you've never met a transgender person. And it's common to have questions at first. But we can all agree that transgender kids should be treated with dignity and respect, just like everyone else.

Local schools across the nation are already creating policies that protect transgender youth and ensure a level playing field for all students—and they're working. Banning transgender youth from playing sports undermines those local efforts.

Transgender kids want the opportunity to play sports for the same reason other kids do: to be a part of a team where they feel like they belong. We shouldn't discriminate against kids and ban them from playing because they're transgender.

Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Megan Allen
(MMSD teacher)
Ardmore Dr.
Madison, WI 53713

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

We are both Family Medicine physicians. We believe that all children and young adults should be allowed to benefit from athletic activities according to the gender they identify with.

The fun, fitness, and friendships that develop during athletic competition should be available to every person.

This bill excludes participation and incorrectly implies that athletic ability is based on the biological sex determination at birth.

This bill has far reaching discriminatory implications for many individuals. This includes those born with ambiguous genitalia (1/1000 live births). It opens the door against people with chromosomal variations, polycystic ovary syndrome, precocious puberty, and other hormonal, genetic conditions as well as for those on certain necessary medications.

Instead of opening this door to expensive laboratory tests, chromosomal analysis, and embarrassing examinations it is most fair for everyone to simply allow our youth to enjoy athletic competition according to the gender that they identify with.

Sincerely,
Len Markman DO

Leslie Markman DO
Tomorrow River Road
Amherst WI 54406

Committee on Education

Chelsea Mikkelson
Madison Metropolitan School District-Whitehorse Middle School

May 26, 2021

Subject: Oppose AB195 and AB196 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

I am a 7th grade special education teacher who has worked at the Madison Metropolitan School District for 17 years. In that time, I have seen a wonderful shift towards inclusion and understanding of others. I myself am committed in my practice to work to be anti racist and focus on social justice issues so that future generations of people can create and maintain systems that are equitable and inclusive.

I strongly oppose AB 196, which would eliminate a student's right to participate in the sport that aligns with their gender identity. No person chooses their gender as some ignorant people might think. I have met, worked with, and taught people who are transgender and...they're just like cis gender people, in that, they are humans with the same basic wants and needs and should be treated as such. Can you imagine a transgender girl who dresses and presents as a girl being forced to play on a male team? Can you imagine a transgender boy who dresses and presents as a boy being forced to play on a girls team? How will schools check a person's birth gender? I shudder at this thought. Let's not attack transgender youth and make their lives harder than they already are. Statistics show time and time again that people who are transgender are more likely to be homeless, suffer depression, and die by suicide and it's partly because of harmful policies such as this. Why would schools make their lives even harder? Schools cannot sanction discrimination.

Please be on the right side of history. Currently, we are teaching the kids about WWII and how Hitler wanted a master race that fit into very narrow guidelines. I cannot help but draw connections to this legislation. Transgender children are children. Let's treat them with the same respect that all humans deserve and give them the opportunity to play sports on teams that follow their gender identification. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Kyle Walsh, and I am an administrator here in Madison. My pronouns are he and him, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender. There really should be no further explanation needed.

As an educator and leader in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am committed to ensuring inclusive environments for all- that includes you if you were to ever come to my building. My values of belonging, racial and social justice and equity, and belonging, are always at the core of whatever I do.

Students learn a lot of important lessons in life, and if you choose to dehumanize HUMAN BEINGS, they will be learning a lesson from you- one that they really shouldn't have to. If you haven't met someone who identifies as transgender, I recommend you do before taking a stance/vote on this issue. You would be undermining all of the work we are doing if you ban transgender youth from playing sports on the team that they identify with. These are children. Trans children are children. Trans girls are girls. Trans boys are boys. They deserve to live without fear and as their authentic selves. Isn't that what you would want?

I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kyle Walsh
Educator, MMSD

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

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To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Peggy Maertz, my pronouns are She, Her, Hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As a parent of a child in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my support for all children. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

Transgender Athletes are allowed at to complete in the Olympics and at other Higher Level Sports in the US. To ban transgender children from sports is an outrage and unfair. There is no fact to the belief that transgender youth do better in sports than cisgender children when completing against each other. The attacks on transgender youth have nothing to do with fairness in sports and it is all about discrimination and forcing a once person's personal and political views on others.

All students who want to play sports, should have the freedom to play. That includes transgender youth.

AB196 & AB195 unfairly attack transgender youth who want the same opportunities as any student their age: To join a team, stay healthy, and make friends.

Transgender youth athletes are under attack. Anti-LGBTQ lawmakers are unfairly targeting transgender youth who deserve the same sports opportunities as anyone their age. Put an end to this attack by taking supportive action today.

Three reasons why students, including transgender students, love to play sports: Teamwork, Sportsmanship, and Leadership. These are all important lessons which kids learn in sports. We want all kinds to be able to have these opportunities

Anti-LGBTQ lawmakers are waging an unfair attack on transgender athletes. AB196 and AB195 are trying to exclude transgender youth from playing sports.

All students want to play on a team, exercise and make friends. When we tell transgender girls that they can't participate in girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches.

As a nation, we decided long ago that discrimination is wrong and that everyone should have the same opportunities to succeed in life—and that should include transgender youth.

Schools across the country know that transgender students, like any student, thrive when they are treated with dignity and respect. School officials shouldn't treat a transgender female student as a girl

between 8AM-3PM and then treat her like she's a boy when sports practice starts. It's deeply hurtful to the student and disrupts the school's policy of treating all kids fairly.

We can celebrate girls' sports and protect transgender youth from discrimination, making sure that all young people can access the lessons and opportunities that sports afford.

Let's remember what this is really about: whether LGBTQ people should be treated fairly across all areas of life—or whether they can be unfairly kicked out of a restaurant, denied an apartment, or denied the health care they need, just because of who they are.

There's a reason those who are trying to ban transgender kids from playing sports keep repeating the same two or three examples over and over again. That's because, in a country of more than 300 million people, these are the only examples they have of transgender girls who have won these kinds of titles. The fact is, 99.9% of kids play sports without ever competing at any kind of elite level. And the overwhelming majority of transgender youth, like most kids, just want to play and participate in everyday school sports with their peers.

We all want to ensure a level playing field in sports. The truth is, every child is different in different ways—which is why some girls excel at gymnastics, others at volleyball, some at basketball, and others at soccer. The overwhelming majority of transgender youth, like most kids, don't even play at elite levels. They just want to play everyday school sports and participate with their peers.

My daughters best friend of 18 years is transgender. They deserve to be able to play in any sport if they so desire.

I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Peggy Maertz

Committee on Education

Samantha Head
(352) 281-0862
154 N Lakewood Gardens Lane
Madison, WI 53704

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Subject: Oppose AB195 and AB196 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

As a school social worker in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I **strongly** oppose AB195 and AB196, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

AB195 and AB196 are inhumane bills to their core. They unfairly attack transgender youth who want the same opportunities as any student their age: to join a team, stay healthy, and make friends. A national survey by GLSEN has found that "75% of transgender youth feel unsafe at school, and those who are able to persevere had significantly lower GPAs, were more likely to miss school out of concern for their safety, and were less likely to plan on continuing their education." The figures tell us a very scary story. They show that trans youth are more likely to miss school, have depressive symptoms, and experience suicidal ideation.

As a school social worker, I am charged with connecting youth and families with resources, many of which tend to be mental health related. I see first hand the impact that feeling unsafe, unwanted, and unvalued does to youth. These bills create an unsafe and unwelcoming environment for all students. They send the message that we do not care about trans youth and that we don't care that they are negatively impacted by simply living their truth and being who they are. As a nation, we decided long ago that discrimination is wrong and that everyone should have the same opportunities to succeed in life—and that should include transgender youth.

All students who want to play sports, should have the freedom to play.

Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB196. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Samantha (Sami) Head, MSW
she/her/hers

Committee on Education

Chelsea Mikkelson

Madison Metropolitan School District-Whitehorse Middle School

May 26, 2021

Subject: Oppose AB195 and AB196 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

I am a 7th grade special education teacher who has worked at the Madison Metropolitan School District for 17 years. In that time, I have seen a wonderful shift towards inclusion and understanding of others. I myself am committed in my practice to work to be anti racist and focus on social justice issues so that future generations of people can create and maintain systems that are equitable and inclusive.

I strongly oppose AB 196, which would eliminate a student's right to participate in the sport that aligns with their gender identity. No person chooses their gender as some ignorant people might think. I have met, worked with, and taught people who are transgender and...they're just like cis gender people, in that, they are humans with the same basic wants and needs and should be treated as such. Can you imagine a transgender girl who dresses and presents as a girl being forced to play on a male team? Can you imagine a transgender boy who dresses and presents as a boy being forced to play on a girls team? How will schools check a person's birth gender? I shudder at this thought. Let's not attack transgender youth and make their lives harder than they already are. Statistics show time and time again that people who are transgender are more likely to be homeless, suffer depression, and die by suicide and it's partly because of harmful policies such as this. Why would schools make their lives even harder? Schools cannot sanction discrimination.

Please be on the right side of history. Currently, we are teaching the kids about WWII and how Hitler wanted a master race that fit into very narrow guidelines. I cannot help but draw connections to this legislation. Transgender children are children. Let's treat them with the same respect that all humans deserve and give them the opportunity to play sports on teams that follow their gender identification. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I am writing in support of transgendered children in general, and more specifically, I am writing to support allowing transgendered children to participate in school sports that match their gender identity. I am a retired high school counselor and worked for 16 years in a rural area in Central Wisconsin, and although I did not have any transgendered students that I was aware of, I fully understand the pain and suffering which students who are 'different' in any way face at the hands of their peers, and in some cases, even at the hands of teachers. I did know some students who were bullied and teased due to the perception of their being homosexual, and the trauma the children experience is a tragedy. There is absolutely nothing that seems more horrifying to me than to codify the persecution of children, stripping them of the rights of a childhood that they deserve. Playing sports with one's peers is paramount to the healthy growth of a child if they choose to participate. For them to be ostracized in the law simply because their gender identity doesn't match the gender they were assigned at birth is setting them up for unhealthy development.

Thank you for your consideration of my support. I hope that Wisconsin returns to its State Motto: Forward!

Sincerely,

Terry L. Major-Holliday
Woodland Circle
Waupaca, WI 54981

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

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To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Kathryn Weisbeck, my pronouns are she/her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

Given the costs of higher education, and the fact that so many scholarships depend on participation in sports to demonstrate a well-rounded experience, then this act, which bars or discourages trans children from competing in sports, will cut individuals off from academic opportunities in the future. Given the vast underemployment of trans people across the United States, there is no excuse for curtailing anyone's future due to gender. Trans children deserve the opportunity to participate in sports, and if those children are to perform their best, they need to be in an environment where they can put their energy towards their performance, instead of pretending to be something they're not.

Transgender and nonbinary children are beautiful individuals who are vulnerable in ways that cisgender children are not. To make their childhood more difficult by placing them in alienating circumstances, or forcing them to choose between a sport they love and an authentic expression of self, is unconscionable. It is discriminatory, and it goes against existing science. According to Dr. Joanna Harper of Loughborough University, the average difference in performance between male and female long-distance runners is 10-12%. Incidentally, her study found that those differences are negligible with hormone therapy; trans women tend to run 10% slower after one year on estrogen. Given that the science does not back this measure, I am forced to conclude that the "Protect Women in Sports Act" does nothing to protect women, and is in fact a means to discriminate against transgender children for daring to live openly.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Weisbeck

E Capitol Drive #6
Hartland, WI 53029

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

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To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

As a school teacher in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I **strongly** oppose AB195 and AB196, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

AB195 and AB196 are inhumane bills to their core. They unfairly attack transgender youth who want the same opportunities as any student their age: to join a team, stay healthy, and make friends. A national survey by GLSEN has found that "75% of transgender youth feel unsafe at school, and those who are able to persevere had significantly lower GPAs, were more likely to miss school out of concern for their safety, and were less likely to plan on continuing their education." The figures tell us a very scary story. They show that trans youth are more likely to miss school, have depressive symptoms, and experience suicidal ideation.

As a school teacher, I am charged with connecting youth and families with resources, many of which tend to be mental health related. I see first hand the impact that feeling unsafe, unwanted, and unvalued does to youth. These bills create an unsafe and unwelcoming environment for all students. They send the message that we do not care about trans youth and that we don't care that they are negatively impacted by simply living their truth and being who they are. As a nation, we decided long ago that discrimination is wrong and that everyone should have the same opportunities to succeed in life—and that should include transgender youth.

All students who want to play sports, should have the freedom to play.

Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB196.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Ashley Hong

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Hello, my name is Molly Berg (she/they) and I'm a Wisconsin resident from Hubertus (near Holy Hill), in Washington County. I've lived in this state my whole life and I vote in every election. I desperately wish I could be there in person today so you could hear how much I mean it when I say **LEAVE OUR KIDS ALONE**.

Childhood is exactly when you should get to figure out who you are and who you want to be. I'm sorry no one taught these people acceptance, kindness, and empathy. None of us have the right to tell people who they "should be" or who they should be friends with.

There is **no valid reason** to meddle with which child can play on what sports team. There is even less reason to propose a separate but "equal" team for trans kids to play on. This is plain old bigotry with a fancy new hat on and those supporting these measures are acting out of (deeply depressing, and honestly? embarrassing) ignorance and fear. Do you even know a single trans person? Have you sat and really thought about what your gender means to you? Have you thought about what it would mean if you were forced into a life that isn't yours?

The idea that any of this is to "protect women's sports" is laughable for a whole bunch of reasons, the largest of which is that *you can't protect women's sports by keeping women out of them*. It's a very gross thing to start requiring everyone (especially children who DON'T GET PAID) to submit to hormone level testing to simply play on a team with their peers. Oh look, it's the bigotry again.

Please. Don't make it harder to be trans or questioning. The depression and suicide rates are already so high. The misinformation so prevalent. We too often become outcast, homeless, desperate, alone.

Don't give people more examples of hate to follow. You can make a difference in the lives of young, sweet people that will last. Let them play with their friends, their peers. Let them play on the team that best aligns with their gender. Let them be who they are.

Thank you.

Molly Berg
Highland Ave.
Hubertus, WI 53033

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Hello,

I am writing a letter on behalf of my daughter who was a student athlete. My daughter participated in swimming for nine years, during that time she competed against many individuals and enjoyed competing against the athlete and accepted the challenge. She took pride in competing against the competitors and not their gender. Gender did not determine who her teammates were or how she challenged herself. She swam hard and fast for herself, for her improvement. She lost to better swimmers and beat better swimmers too. Gender did not take that away from her.

School sports are often overtaken by parents' agendas and lose sight of what sports should be about, team, community, friendships, exercise and competition. I feel strongly that sports should not become politicized, with parents agendas.

I know my daughter enjoyed her time swimming and is open and accepting of all her teammates and competitors. She would not want to see anyone being isolated and not able to swim with her friends due to other parents deciding who should be part of her team, based entirely on their ideas of male and female only sports.

Please keep politics out of school athletics.

Tracey L Soyring
S 8th St
Mount Horeb WI, 5572

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

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To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Matt Klein and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I fail to understand why anyone would want to prevent children from playing sports. Being able to have fun with friends as a child is important to growth, development, and well-being. You learn community, you learn friendships, you learn teamwork, you have fun. This shouldn't be denied to any child.

As someone abused as a child through denial of friends and through isolation, it is particularly horrifying to see adults spending their finite hours on this planet toying with legislation stating children should be harmed. You need to protect every child you govern for.

Thank you for your time. I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,
Matthias Klein
Eau Claire, WI

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Sara Govier, my pronouns are she/her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and non-binary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

Sports are an avenue by which children gain confidence in themselves and also learn the importance of teamwork and coming together for the collective good. Singling children out for their gender identity not only shatters their confidence but also deprives them of the opportunity to form important relationships. As someone with a non-binary sibling, I've seen firsthand the value sports can provide in creating a safe and welcoming place for transgender athletes to thrive when approached from a place of inclusivity.

Growing up I played multiple sports, though I was never overly athletic. But I will never forget the day in basketball practice in middle school when I took a charge from the best player on our team. Not only did I surprise our coach, but I surprised myself. That one play in a random, meaningless practice gave me more confidence than anything had before. Transgender children deserve the same opportunity.

Transgender and non-binary children are not a threat to other athletes. They are certainly not a threat to girls' and women's sports. My two daughters would be better served by actual support of girls' and women's sports than attempting to solve a problem that doesn't exist. Given the inequity between boys' and girls' supports, it is unconscionable to believe that boys would choose to identify as transgender in order to

compete in girls' sports. These bills are nothing more than discrimination against children and will cause more harm for a group of children who are already marginalized. These bills will teach other children that segregation is acceptable in Wisconsin schools, and the effects will be long-lasting.

Youth sports are an invaluable tool to build confidence in children and help them form lasting relationships with their peers. These bills will prevent trans youth from feeling safe enough to come out and will deny them the opportunity to gain these critical life skills. These bills will cause irreparable harm to many children across the state of Wisconsin.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Sara Govier
Eagles Way
Muskego, WI 53150

May 26, 2021

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Allison Peret-DeRosia, my pronouns are she/her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As a parent, I feel strongly that my own child and any other child should be allowed to live as their most authentic self. Placing restrictions on students that prevent them from living out their lives in a way that aligns with their gender identity does more harm than good. And there is no sound scientific basis for arguments that claim transgendered athletes would be at some sort of biological advantage. The only reasons to deny trans athletes the ability to play on the team that fits their gender are based in fear and prejudice. We are better than that, and we need to be better for the sake of our children.

As someone with trans friends and an educator who has worked with trans youth, I am passionate about this cause. I've seen the mental health issues that can result from the type of discrimination transgendered individuals face daily. Don't let these anti-trans bills pass and enable further hardships for trans youth just trying to enjoy sports with their peers.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Allison Peret-DeRosia

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I am writing to you to strongly oppose any and all anti-trans legislation brought forth in the state of Wisconsin.

As an amazing friend of mine so eloquently stated, and I 100% agree with them:

"The truth of the matter is that these bills are designed to effectively legislate trans folks out of public life and to make it harder for them to simply exist. They're based on fear and fallacy and junk science, and they conveniently ignore the simple truth--shown over and over again in actual peer-reviewed studies--that when kids of all genders and identities feel safe and supported and encouraged to be themselves, they thrive. In particular, rates of anxiety, depression and suicidal ideation plummet when transgender kids have supportive families and communities. In other words, trans kids and adults don't have increased rates of mental health issues because they're trans, but instead because they are so often ostracized and alienated and unsafe.

It comes down to one simple truth: Legislation like AB 195 & 196 and SB 322 & 323 is harmful to children. Let me say that again: This legislation is HARMFUL TO CHILDREN. It seeks to solve a problem that doesn't exist, and it will only lead to trauma and exclusion. Laws like this will be used to challenge cis children as well as trans ones; And what message does that send to our children, that we should judge their merits based on their identity instead of their achievements, that we should only allow some of them access to normal kid things like sports?"

In conclusion, I am an ally for the transgender community along with the LGBTQ+ community. Why? Because the identity that any person chooses is none of my business, nor does it affect me in a negative way. There is no need for any legislation limiting or banning a group or groups of people based on gender identity, that is discrimination and should not be tolerated anywhere in this nation, let alone in our wonderful state of Wisconsin. This legislation is based on lack of education and fear of the unknown.

I strongly urge you to stand against the passing of any such legislation now, and in the future.

In solidarity,
Allison Deppe

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I am writing as a WI resident, parent, and teacher, to strongly voice my opposition to the anti-trans athlete bill (AB196). This bill is supposedly a solution to a non-existent problem. Ciswomen and cisgirls are not feeling that their own athletic prowess is somehow diminished by sharing their sport with transwomen and transgirls. Women are women -- cis or trans -- and deserve to be supported and welcomed into all spaces. This proposed legislation would ostracize transwomen and transgirls by creating the false impression that they are not women and girls. Additionally, it is statistically shown that when humans are not accepted for who they are, they are subject to much higher rates of anxiety, depression, and suicide. Honor ALL women and girls by rejecting this bill.

Sincerely,

Amanda Gail Crim

Dunning St Madison, WI 53704

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Alexandra Aulisi, my pronouns are she/her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

All children should be allowed to participate in sports and I've learned from my trans friends how important it is to be seen as their correct gender so denying children the right to play on their correctly gendered team is cruel and psychologically damaging.

It's shameful that, in this day and age, anyone would believe that legislating a human being's identity is acceptable. Do the right thing and consider the pain you'll be inflicting on an entire population as well as the precedent you'll be setting. I beg you to have empathy and not be on the wrong side of history. Let your legacy be one of love, not of hate.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Aulisi
Rusk St
Madison, 53704

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I'm a cis white woman who grew up in the Madison area. And I am writing in opposition to the bills Rep. Dittrich has introduced in the name of feminism and equality. I was an elite runner in high school, holding several school records and participating in three national championships in track and field. I even went on to participate on the track team at the University of Minnesota for year in college. And later, in graduate school, I took up roller derby, where I would eventually skate with and against trans women. So though I am not trans myself, these experiences have given me quite a bit of insight into the issue at hand and I would like to share my thoughts.

First off, the assertions of Dittrich that girls are being robbed of opportunities is false. In this state, in my former sport, there are no state records currently held by any trans runners. There is a compilation of the top fifty performances in state history in all conditions at all meets and not a single one has been a trans athlete.

The assertion that girls are being robbed of scholarship opportunities is also false. Students may have better exposure to recruiters at the end of the day, but in the end it was performance metrics and times that mattered. Some of my teammates were walk on redshirts like myself, despite being state finalists or eve champions.

Then there is the claim that competing against trans women and girls is somehow dangerous. Not only has that been untrue in my experience, but it's also a grossly disparaging claim. Given that current state and NCAA policy require a year of hormone therapy prior to competition, I can say that this is adequate. In roller derby I skated against cis men, cis women, trans men, and trans women, many in varying stages of transition. And can say without a doubt that I never felt any degree of unfairness or dominance regarding the trans women. I played for 4 years and never felt unsafe skating around them and never witnessed a higher occurrence of injuries as a result of their participation.

I'm writing in support of them because they were wonderful teammates and it opened my eyes to the struggles they face. This bill is claiming equity and fairness but how is excluding someone who is already following NCAA guidelines fair? There are myriad ways this will would potentially hurt cis girls as well.

The NCAA has already warned states banning college trans athletes from competition that it would be a violation of Title IX and bar certain competitions and tournaments from those states. Providing fewer opportunities or excess recourses for programs to travel elsewhere. Considering that most college teams do not have a single trans athlete, that would strain the resources of ever program in the state. At a time when roster spots are already being cut to save funds due to covid related budget deficits.

As well, there is also room to weaponize the bill. If a competitor's gender is questioned anonymously by a parent trying to earn their daughter a roster spot or bar someone from a meet, they could be forced to undergo invasive medical inspections to prove their womanhood. How would this not be traumatic for children?

If I had lost a meet back in the day to a trans girl, I hope my parents would have given me the wisdom to see that it's not all about winning. Plenty of my competitors had better genes, better training, or could afford private coaching and it only made me push harder. Sports are never completely level. But excluding an already marginalized group so some girls could potentially earn a couple extra medals is not equality. I'm thankful for the ability to bond with my trans teammates and know their struggles. Please do not take these opportunities away from them.

Sincerely,
Alida Mau

May 26th, 2021

AB 195 Summary: This bill is designed to prohibit a male student from participating on an athletic team or in a sport designated for females or women in collegiate level sport.

It is very clear that this bill is aimed at transgender women. The word transgender is not mentioned in this bill- not once. Sex assigned at birth is mentioned three times. The language of this bill erases the existence of transgender people by simply not even mentioning them. However, transgender persons have existed in this world for centuries. They have existed cross culturally. They walk in two worlds of life experience and often, historically, were given high regard in Indigenous cultures.

This is a discriminatory bill. The language used outright negates that a transwoman is a woman by calling out specifically that male students may not play on a women's team. Again, the word transgender is never used. The bill does not take into account that students may be entering college already having been on hormone blockers from a young age, have begun hormone replacement therapy, and may have already sought gender affirming surgery. There is also no deep dive into scientific evidence that suggest transwomen will overpower and take opportunities from cisgender women. The most obvious and glaring sore thumb of this bill being geared toward transwomen is that there is no mention of transmen. At all. What I see here is an age old stereotype. Men are strong. Women are weak. There is no fear of trans men in sport because how could they be a threat? But trans women on the other hand- this bill is just for them.

A list of current policies for trans athletes- elite athletes -exist and are available on <https://www.transathlete.com/policies-by-organization>. Here are a few examples of elite athletics organizations which took the time to create policies for equity and fairness in sport: The Association of Boxing Commissions , CrossFit , [International Association of Athletic Federations \(IAAF\)](#), [International Olympic Committee \(IOC\)](#) , [International Tennis Federation \(ITF\)](#). At this time, currently, there are already colleges that have adapted policies for transgender students to participate in sports. At the collegiate sport level, The [National Collegiate Athletic Association \(NCAA\)](#) , has drafted a policy as well as a handbook, [NCAA Inclusion of Transgender Athletes Handbook](#), which support and give guidelines for the participation of transgender folks in sport.

In summary, University of Wisconsin institutions and technical colleges that operate or sponsor intercollegiate, intramural, or club athletic teams or sport are completely capable of adapting policies around transgender folks participating in collegiate level sport. The NCAA and the International Olympic Committee have standards for reference. My ask here is simple- there are already criteria that cover transgender folks participating in sport. This bill is not about transgender folks participating in sport. This bill is about making the discriminatory statement that transgender people are not people and do not belong. This is reckless, harmful legislation that doesn't need to be put into law.

Jessica Lynn Zitkus

Address: Brentwood Pkwy, Madison, WI 53704

May 26, 2021

Dear Members of the Education Committee,

I am a member of the Mount Horeb Area School District Board of Education, a researcher at the Wisconsin Center for Education Research, UW-Madison, and a mother of three children. My statement does not represent the District, the full Board, or my employer. However, what I have learned in my roles helps inform my opposition to Assembly Bill 196 and Senate Bill 322.

In my work as an education researcher and as a school board member, I am committed to equity, and ensuring that students feel welcome, supported, and included. That each of our students receive what they need to be academically and socially successful. Our transgender youth need our care and our support, not our hate and alienation. As parents and as adults who are leading our youth, I employ you to not heed to national politics and pressure but to thoughtfully oppose Assembly Bill 196 and Senate Bill 322.

The WIAA allows transgender students to participate in sports and outlines a policy for school districts to follow. In a state that embraces local control, no additional state level policies are necessary.

Please embrace policies that allow our students to do more and to be more successful. Please do not support policies that remove opportunities and alienate our students. Oppose Assembly Bill 196 and Senate Bill 322.

Respectfully,

Jessica Arrigoni
S 4th Street
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Ian Lacasse. My pronouns are he/him/his, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams that best align with their gender.

As a health and physical educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on a sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

The ability to play sports growing up provided me an opportunity that all children should have. Through sports, I learned many lifelong lessons: leadership, confidence, self-respect, and what it means to be part of a team. When we tell transgender girls that they can't play girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches. All students who want to play sports should have the freedom to play. That includes transgender youth. AB196 & AB195 unfairly attack transgender youth who want the same opportunities as any student their age: To join a team, stay healthy, and make friends. As a nation, we decided long ago that discrimination is wrong and that everyone should have the same opportunities to succeed in life—and that should include transgender youth.

Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ian Lacasse
Cedar Drive
Oregon, WI 53575

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Silvia.

I am 7 years old. My pronouns are they/them/theirs/elle. I go to school in Madison. The teachers at my school have been flexible and they have trusted me to know who I am. They have helped other kids to understand who I am too. When I go into high school I want to be an athlete. I want to be able to be on whatever team I want, without someone telling me what to do because of what they think my gender is. It's not always easy being trans, but I need to be who I am. Please vote no on AB195, AB196 and SB322 & SB323 . Please include everybody of all genders and trust trans kids.

Silvia
Madison WI

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Janelle Johnson, my pronouns are she/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I think all kids should have the opportunity to play sports bases on their gender (not their assigned sex at birth). Sports is about forging relationships and learning how to be part of a team, and all trans children should have the right to that. By not including them we set them apart and isolate them from their full childhood experience.

As a mother of two trans teens, my kids should have the same opportunity that every other child has.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Janelle Johnson
48th st
Milwaukee Wisconsin 53219

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Hazel Press, my pronouns are she/her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

This legislation is not about protecting kids, and it will likely do them harm. Sports teach important lessons to kids about teamwork, respect, sportsmanship, collaboration and relationship building; team sports give kids a place to contribute to the greater good and learn how to be a part of something bigger than themselves. It's not fair to take that away from trans kids.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Hazel Press
30 Heritage cir.
Apt 5
Madison, WI 53711

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Jess Kellogg-Kuhn, my pronouns are she/they, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

Kids of all genders who are interested in sports just want to play. The idea that a young trans girl is a threat to a girls sports team is simply untrue. These kids are not the threat; it's the lack of funding and support for these teams.

I was in softball as a kid, and I played because I wanted to play a game with friends. It didn't matter whether those friends were boys or girls; it was a game, and it was about having fun. What message does that send to our children, that we should judge their merits based on their identity instead of their achievements, that we should only allow some of them access to normal kid things like sports?

As a thirtysomething who has recently come out as non-binary, I feel for the young kids who have figured themselves out long before I did. They deserve support and love, and to be able to do anything the other kids do. Splitting trans/non-binary kids from the cisgendered teams just feels cruel and unnecessary. Discrimination has no place in Wisconsin sports.

Trans people have been sharing that a lack of support for trans kids leads to higher rates of depression and suicide, whereas it's proven that when they are encouraged to be themselves and are surrounded by support, they thrive. We want our kids to thrive.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Jess Kellogg-Kuhn
1506 Frisch Road

Assembly Committee on Education
Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities
Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families
Wisconsin State Capitol
2 E Main St.
Madison, WI 53703

RE: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322 and 323

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Katy Schweitz, and I write today as a mother of three Wisconsin students and an LGBTQ+ ally. I strongly oppose both anti-trans athlete bills (AB195, AB196 and SB322 & SB323) because students deserve to feel welcomed, supported, and able to thrive in Wisconsin's educational institutions.

My opposition stems from the following key points:

- 1) Consider that 1% of youth identify as transgender. From that pool, only a fraction identify as trans women and an even smaller amount play sports. That representatives have authored bills affecting such a miniscule sliver of students seems like a ploy to distract from the real issues of our time--a teacher shortage, achievement gaps, and poverty, to name a few.
- 2) The notion that Title IX exists to protect biological females from trans females is completely misguided and shows how time and the current "culture war" can distort even the best intentions. Invoking Title IX in this capacity only serves to reinforce harmful stereotypes about ALL women -- that we need protection and are not to be trusted if we are too good, too fast, too strong, etc.
- 3) The bills define sex as that "assigned at birth by a physician." This oversimplification ignores that a person's sex is comprised of multiple biological characteristics that may or may not align with what is generally deemed "typical."

Transgender youth are among our most vulnerable students. Please acknowledge the complexities these students face and create safe and affirming public spaces.

Sincerely,

Katy Schweitz
Chestnut Crest
Cottage Grove, WI 53527

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Hello, my name is Naomi Dubin, and my pronouns are she/her. I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. It is a violation of students' rights to ban them from playing sports with the team that aligns with their gender, regardless of whether they are cisgender, transgender, or nonbinary.

Just yesterday evening, I accompanied one of my 7th grade students to the MMSD high school all-city track meet. This is a student who has her head down in every class, hasn't completed any assignments this quarter, and is currently failing. Her only interest at this time is athletics. Throughout the 3+ hours we spent together at the meet, I saw a return of the happy and lighthearted student I used to know when she was in 6th grade, and she spent a great deal of time talking with one of the assistant coaches and asking questions about athletics. By the end of the meet, she understood what grades she needs to earn to be allowed to compete, how to train and cross-train, where to buy running shoes, and which track events she'd be interested in learning about. She's committed to being a member of her high school track team for all 4 years she attends, and understands the academic commitments she will need to make to fulfill that dream. And with the right supports, this cisgender female student will be able to accomplish all of those goals.

However - what if this student were nonbinary or transgender? Athletics are quite literally her lifeline - would we, in good conscious and with legal permission, deny the lifeline that athletics can provide for students who struggle with mental health issues, self-worth, engagement in school, and peer interaction? *Especially* for students who are nonbinary or transgender, these concerns are all amplified, and athletics can be a powerful positive force

in these students' lives.

Transgender youth athletes are under attack. Anti-LGBTQ lawmakers are unfairly targeting transgender youth who deserve the same sports opportunities as anyone their age. Put an end to this attack by taking supportive action today. There's a reason those who are trying to ban transgender kids from playing sports keep repeating the same two or three examples over and over again. That's because, in a country of more than 300 million people, these are the only examples they have of transgender girls who have won these kinds of titles. The fact is, 99.9% of kids play sports without ever competing at any kind of elite level. And the overwhelming majority of transgender youth, like most kids, just want to play and participate in everyday school sports with their peers.

Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

With concern -

Naomi Dubin, CCC-SLP (she/her/hers)
Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Madison Metropolitan School District

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Michele Smith, I am a resident of Oconomowoc, and I am writing to oppose the anti-trans bill AB195 and AB196 and to urge you to withdraw the bill. This level of bias and discrimination you have put your time and energy towards is shameful. Passing a bill that takes away the opportunity for transgender youth to participate in sports will have devastating impacts on the trans community. Participation in sports should teach our youth the value and importance of inclusion and acceptance, not rejection of those who already face so much adversity. If this bill passes, this discriminatory bill will be part of your damaging legacy in leadership. You are teaching our communities to turn their backs on some of the most vulnerable youth among us. You have been elected to serve ALL of your district, transgender individuals included. Supporting this bill shows a lack of compassion, empathy, and an inability to serve your whole community. Please withdraw this anti-trans bill.

Thank you,

Michele Smith
Cherry Street
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Allison Frankfother
Madison Metropolitan School District
(815) 590 9399 5622
Irongate Drive Madison, WI 53716
Wednesday,

To all on the committee regarding AB195 and AB196,

As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply troubled by the decisions our legislators have made to introduce a bill that would limit transgender students' involvement in athletics. Our jobs as educators and as lawmakers is to ensure equitable, inclusive, and welcoming environments, not just in the classroom, but in our communities as well. It is our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory opportunities to live, work, and play for all our youth. I strongly oppose the bills being heard in the Assembly today, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on sports teams that align with their gender identity.

All students who want to play sports should have the freedom to play. That includes transgender youth. AB196 & AB195 unfairly attack transgender youth who want the same opportunities as any student their age: to join a team, build self-confidence, learn a skill, stay healthy, and make friends. Sports not only provide students with a sense of community and friendship, they also teach students about teamwork, sportsmanship, and leadership -- life skills that allow them to become responsible, happy adults. If this legislation is passed, we are telling

our trans youth that their identity doesn't matter, and we are saying that discrimination is okay. We should be celebrating differences rather than depriving our students of opportunities.

Furthermore, the belief that transgender youth participating in a gendered sports team is harmful to cisgender youth on that team, particularly cisgender girls, is unfounded in science and based only on extrapolated and anecdotal evidence. It is far more harmful to transgender youth to tell them their gender identity excludes them from participating in a sport. It is also incredibly harmful to all children and young adults to suggest that an individual with male body parts and chromosomes has an inherent advantage over any individual with female body parts and chromosomes. As adults with a responsibility to strengthen and build up our community and youth, the last thing we need to spend our time on is creating policies that serve only to make our beautiful, wonderful, intelligent youth feel less than, othered, and excluded.

Transgender kids and young adults deserve the same opportunities as everyone else. They are our students, neighbors, and family members. They are no different than any other child. Trans girls are girls. Trans boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics at all levels of education, from kindergarten to college and beyond. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB195/AB196. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Allison Frankfother



Commissioners

Tony Snell, Chair

Martha Collins, Vice Chair

Mayhoua Moua

Nathan Guequierre

Jennifer Bennett

Jessica Boling

William Crowley

May 24, 2021

Subject: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323

Dear Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education –

On behalf of the City of Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission; I write to you with strong concerns about legislation currently being considered in Wisconsin. We stand in firm opposition to any legislation targeting the LGBTQ+ community.

Four bills being considered now in Wisconsin would pose harm to transgender young people. Participation in athletics is a vital part of an individual's well-being, including their physical, social, and emotional health. Major medical associations, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Medicine, recognize that supporting transgender youth is critical to their health and well-being.

It is clear that these bills, at their core, are discriminatory. They would violate Title IX of federal education law prohibiting sex discrimination and rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court while further marginalizing vulnerable students. Passing any one of these bills would undeniably harm young people who are simply trying to excel and enjoy their personal success and lead to major challenges for Wisconsin, including severe economic hardships and a tarnished image on the national platform.

Anti-LGBTQ legislation has no place in Wisconsin. We ask you to stand with us and strongly urge you to reject these punitive bills. Let us, instead, work on making Wisconsin a more welcoming and affirming state for all people. At the end of the day, everyone should be treated with dignity and respect – and that includes transgender youth.

Sincerely,

Tony Snell
Commissioner and Chair
He/Him

Committee on Education
Committee on Colleges and Universities

Allison Shuda 4310 Maher Ave. Madison, WI 53716
Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Subject: Oppose AB195 and AB196 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I strongly oppose AB196, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

AB196 unfairly attacks transgender youth who want the same opportunities as any student their age: to join a team, stay healthy, and make friends. There are all kinds of benefits to youth sports. As a child I had so much fun playing sports, and I also gained leadership skills and learned how to work with others towards a goal. All students who want to play sports should have the freedom to play, including transgender youth.

Trans girls are girls. Trans girls deserve to live authentically and they deserve to have the same opportunities to participate in sports as cisgender girls. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB196. Thank you for this opportunity to submit this written statement.

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I urge the opposition of these bills! Transgender and non-binary people need to be protected and fully included. It is extremely hurtful to trans folks when they are treated with fear and excluded from participation.

Susan Kaye
Upham St
Madison WI
53704

May 26th, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Paul Jenkins and I oppose AB195, AB196 and SB322, SB323. I live at 6018 Meadowood Dr in Madison, WI.

I can't imagine living in a state where trans kids are not welcome to participate in youth sports. Youth sports provide inclusion, team building, and a place for many kids to feel a sense of belonging. Excluding trans kids from those opportunities wouldn't just be cruel, it would be dangerous. Cutting off ways for trans children to participate in sports as equals with their peers is just another way to communicate to trans children that they can never be who they want in the world. When our societal and governmental structures tell children they can't be themselves and simply participate in activities they enjoy, we eliminate hope of a future and cause unimaginable damage to countless children and families. These children grow up to be our future.

These bills are cruel and dangerous to trans kids. Please don't move these bills forward.

Thanks,
Paul Jenkins

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

As a parent of two children in MMSD, I am writing to oppose this legislation. My children were both assigned female at birth, and I believe they identify as such. I see no need for this legislation to in any way protect them, and in fact I think legislation such as this cheapens their worth as individuals.

gender, as we have come to realize, is a fluid concept. We want sex to be more black and white; but as a medical doctor I can attest that it doesn't always work that way. hormone levels obviously vary between "male" and "female" levels, but there is substancial within-sex vairation as well. athletic ability also comes from many other factors beyond individual control. this attempt to determine who is able to compete with whom amounts to an attempt at discrimination while doing nothing to actually empower "women".

Our transgender students deserve to be empowered, protected, and given the same rights as others in school and sports. These bills effectively disenfranchise an entire group of people who are already disenfranchised and struggling to fit in. Let that not be done in the name of protecting my daughters.

Amy Fothergill

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Matthew Nicholas and Jessica Elaine Fox 4318 Keating Ter
Madison, WI 53711

Written Testimony Against AB195 and AB196

This testimony is written by Matthew and Jessica Fox and we are parents of a five-year-old girl who was assigned male at birth. At three and a half, she told us that she was a girl. Prior to that, getting her to wear "boy style" clothing resulted in tantrums and tears. Once we let her dress as a girl, all the tantrums went away, and it was like we had a new, happier child. She has completely socially transitioned, which means that we let her wear her hair long, dress in "girl style" clothes, and call her by a more feminine name. She socially transitioned so early that she has only grown up as a girl and does not consider herself to be transgender. If you ask her, she is "just a girl." She is young, so she might change her mind in the future about her gender. However, her therapist and doctors say this is unlikely, and there is also the chance that she will not change her mind.

If she does not change her mind, and continues to live as a girl, then passing AB195 and AB196 will only serve to discriminate against her. She will never remember a time when she was considered a boy. Therefore, passing these bills will only serve to keep her from playing sports with kids of her gender. Why would she agree to play on a boys' team if she has never been treated as a boy? Some may think this would serve to help her change her mind and de-transition. More likely, this will just be evidence to her that her community thinks that there is something wrong with her. There are other transgender people who feel differently, but our daughter does not want to be and would never choose to be transgender. If she could have been assigned female at birth, that is what she would have chosen.

Merriam-Webster defines discrimination as "the act, practice, or an instance of discriminating categorically rather than individually." If our daughter continues to maintain her social transition as a girl, she will never go through male puberty. Her physicality, how she is socialized, and how she wants to be treated will have been entirely female, for as long as she can remember. Therefore, she would have absolutely no physical advantage over girls who were assigned female at birth of the same age. How is it not discrimination then, that she should be excluded from sports categorically, because of how she was born?

Even girls or women who have gone through male puberty are just as valid as our daughter. There has been no evidence that any transgender girls or women are entering female sports teams to gain an advantage. They just want the same thing as our daughter would want, to be treated in the same way as anyone else who is the same gender as them. For those lawmakers reading this who are male, it would be like making you play on women's sports teams and having a law that insists that you are actually female, in spite of your physicality, or how you want to dress or act like a man.

Please vote against bills AB 195 and AB 196. Do not pass these bills to discriminate against our daughter and many other girls and women. This is the time for all of us in Wisconsin to show that we will not stand for discrimination of any kind.

Thank you for your attention, Matthew and Jessica Fox

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Aaron Kaio and I'm a teacher in Madison. I currently teach at Shabazz City High School where we have several trans students. In my experience many trans students already have daily struggles with their identities. They face uncomfortable questions, difficult home lives and the possibility of public ridicule and harm. Bills that we create for our state should focus on defending our most vulnerable and I would put my trans students in this category. Many trans youth need support, protection, and mentorship. I think a trans youth making the decision to join a sports team or any extracurricular activity should be celebrated, their road is inherently more difficult because of how society judges their decisions so their willingness to be vulnerable and brave should be valued. I'm not even sure what is being protected here is it a nostalgia for high school sports? Is it to protect female cisgender athletes opportunities for scholarships? I think exclusion is never the right answer.

Thank you,

Aaron Kaio

Elmside Blvd
Madison, WI 53704

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Natalie Syty, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I am currently an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District. As an educator and someone with a front row seat to see how children are impacted by adult decisions, I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322 and SB 323. Eliminating students' rights to engage in opportunities all children should have access to is both extremely hurtful and unnecessary. For those students who engage in sports, the experience is invaluable. Team sports played a huge role in my own youth and to think this experience could be taken from some children simply based on who they are is heartbreaking. All children should have the same opportunity to be fully included in their communities. No child should be excluded or have to change who they are to be accepted and participate.

For the above reasons and more, I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for your time, consideration and for this opportunity to testify.

Natalie Syty,
School Psychologist @ MMSD

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Megan Siebert (she/her). I teach music in the Madison Metro School District and my teaching upholds values of equity and belonging in our communities. I work closely with LGBTQ+ kids in my classroom and extracurricular activities. Because I support all my students and their identities, I am testifying in strong opposition to AB196 which takes away a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

In my work with transgender and non-binary youth, I notice traits present in all my students: they want to play with their friends and they want to belong. Every child should have the opportunity to fulfill that simple wish, and AB195 and AB196 attempt to exclude them from that childhood experience.

Having been an athlete myself, on a girls' team, I would have had no problem sharing a locker room or playing on a team with a trans girl, or playing against a team that included trans girls. Sports can teach kids leadership, sportspersonship, and teamwork, and to deny transgender students an avenue to that learning is a sign that we as adults have not internalized these lessons.

And that is nothing compared to the lessons we *are* teaching our youth with this type of legislation: that discrimination is allowable, not everyone deserves respect, and it is okay to use children as pawns to deny an entire community of people basic dignity. Because this legislation is just that--an attack meant to deny rights to young people of the LGBTQ+ community who just want to be part of a team and play a game with their friends.

So the real question is: are we going to treat LGBTQ+ people fairly in every area of life, or are we going to ignore the lessons we learned in youth sports? I hope you join me in rejecting AB195 and AB196's hateful attacks on children. Support our students--let them play. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Megan Siebert
Teacher with Madison Metropolitan School District
806 Whispering Pines Way, Fitchburg WI 53713

Subject Line: Oppose AB195, AB196, SB 322, and SB 323 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Tony Jennaro, my pronouns are he, him, his, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I am a high school educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District at La Follette High School, where I am deeply committed to creating classrooms, schools, and communities that are inclusive of all young people and encourage them to thrive and grow as their full selves. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I also live my personal and professional life proudly as a queer gay man, who has learned so much from my trans siblings, especially the trans youth I have come to know over the years. I hope in whatever small way to lift up their voices and experiences through this testimony today that is in strong opposition to AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which seek to eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

My students from my school's Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) shared with me these important reminders, which I will share with you today:

- Every trans youth should be able to participate in the sport of their choosing. Banning trans youth from sports is discriminatory!
- All trans youth should be able to participate freely in any school activity without harassment, backlash, or discrimination. We believe that biological sex does not inherently correspond to athletic ability. Gender and biological sex are not the same.
- This ban or law is absolutely unnecessary and will cause more harm than good, specifically to trans youth who already experience many forms of oppression and hate in our society.
- If you truly care about the people you represent and believe in human dignity, human rights, and equal treatment under the law, then you must listen to what we and trans youth

are saying. These bills create inequality and foster hate in our state, which goes completely against what we should be teaching young people.

Transgender youth are youth, Trans girls are girls, Trans boys are boys. It's as simple as that. This attack on them serves no purpose other than to marginalize them and create division in our society. This is a political game at the expense of young people who have so much to offer us. The fact that we are even having this debate will increase very real and very harmful prejudice, hate, and discrimination towards Trans folks, putting literal lives at risk. Youth depression and suicide is a pervasive problem in many of our communities and schools (I know it has hit very close to home multiple times in the past several years in my school community). Sadly, we know it is even more of a problem among Trans youth. Our communities are resilient and will fight back your hate, but how many lives will you harm in the process? How much hate are you willing to rain down on young people to achieve your political ends?

I believe Trans youth deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Tony Jennaro

Milwaukee St.
Madison, WI 53704

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I oppose bills AB195 and AB196 because I'm far more concerned about the mental health of children negatively impacted by this legislation than my children's right to have an "equal playing field." The truth is, my children's playing field WON'T be impacted by the inclusion of their trans friends. In states with inclusive policies, high school girls' participation in sports remained unchanged from 2011 to 2019. In states with exclusive policies, girls' participation has decreased.(citation) In California and Connecticut, which have inclusive policies, girls' sports participation has increased, including by almost 14 percent in California from 2014 to 2020.(citation)

These bills will further erode the safety and inclusion that trans youth need so badly. Transgender youth experience unsafe and unwelcoming environments, and evidence shows that discriminatory school policies only harm them further. GLSEN's 2019 National School Climate Survey found that 1 in 10 LGBTQ youth have been discouraged from playing school sports due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.(citation) More than half of transgender students reported being prevented from using bathrooms and locker rooms that align with their gender identity. LGBTQ youth who had experienced discriminatory policies reported lower self-esteem and school belonging than those who had not, as well as higher rates of depression and school absenteeism.

Every day I teach my children to "fill someone's bucket." To help someone feel seen and valued. Because I know that empathy and accountability to one another is the backbone of a safe community for all. These bills actively dismantle these teachings and I must stand up against them.

Sara Ansell
(MMSD parent of cis kids)

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

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To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Lilith Pieper, my pronouns are she/her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

Trans children should not be pointedly excluded from sports. An already marginalized group suffering additional scrutiny and segregation from other students based on their gender makes me feel sick.

As a child I was in sports my entire life, being part of the varsity tennis team, running track while younger, and playing soccer with friends. It was one of the only places I learned how to make friends, compete to my fullest, and enjoy myself. I have been in a local co-ed soccer league, and generally, there is not any noticeable difference between the players based on gender, it is almost exclusively based on weight, regular exercise, and drive to win.

The transgender community has had countless attacks on them in recent years, with bills passed that would outlaw children receiving the aid they would need. The more and more increasing amount of physical violence and deaths of trans individuals in our current climate, means we must support and cherish the trans and nonbinary community, and especially the trans and nonbinary youth.

The legislation could be just the first step in a wave of laws that aim to segregate and separate the trans and nonbinary community from the rest. It could initially start with separating the trans

and nonbinary community from sports, then we could have segregated bathrooms, and registrations to prove that you are transgender. It is not something I want to see in a country that is for the free.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.
Sincerely,

Lilith Pieper
Williamson St. Unit 308, Madison, 53703

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

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To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Eli Rittenhouse, my pronouns are they/them/theirs, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As a non-binary person, I must openly oppose this legislation, which would be incredibly damaging to trans youth if passed. We are given so many messages from such a young age about who we can be, and the limitations placed upon us based on the construct of gender and the sex we're assigned at birth. This legislation would further oppress trans youth, who are already facing bullying, harassment, increased suicidality, increased homelessness, physical and sexual violence, and other threats to their safety. I will excerpt material from The Trevor Project below to further illustrate the seriousness of these issues.

"Transgender youth reported significantly increased rates of depression, suicidality, and victimization compared to their cisgender peers. Notably, in the past year, one in three transgender youth reported attempting suicide, almost one-third reported being a victim of sexual violence, and more than half reported a two-week period of depression." - The Trevor Project

The statistics shared above are certainly not an exhaustive list of the experiences of trans children, or the challenges they face, but they paint a picture of the very real risks

this community is already facing. I urge you to take these statistics seriously and defend trans children.

Additionally, sports are a great forum for youth to make friends, build community, and build muscle. They can be a great method of catharsis, and a positive outlet for energy. There are so many positive lessons kids can learn from being a part of a team, and no one should be told how or if they are able to participate in activities that enrich their lives.

Please do not pass this harmful legislation, that would put these children at further risk, through preventing their participation and/or making it unsafe for them to participate in activities that should be fun and accessible for all.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Eli (Elizabeth) Rittenhouse
Gifford St
Orfordville WI
53576

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Sherie Hohs, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and non-binary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As the LGBTQIA+ Lead in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I have the extraordinary opportunity of supporting transgender and non-binary youth and advocating for their rights to safety and inclusion. I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all people. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

Being an athlete deeply impacted me as a child, and has continued to shape my experience as an adult. Kids learn a lot of important life lessons in sports: leadership, confidence, self-respect, and what it means to be part of a team. When we tell transgender girls that they can't play girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches. Transgender people should be treated with dignity and respect, just like everyone else.

Local schools across the nation are already creating policies that protect transgender youth and ensure a level playing field for all students—and they're working! We've seen this firsthand in

the Madison Metropolitan School District. Banning transgender youth from playing sports undermines those local efforts. Transgender kids want the opportunity to play sports for the same reason other kids do: to be a part of a team where they feel like they belong. We shouldn't discriminate against kids and ban them from playing because they're transgender.

Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony.

Sherie Hohs
LGBTQIA+ Lead, Madison Metropolitan School District
shohs@madison.k12.wi.us / 608.616.9010

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Rachel Kiley, my pronouns are she/her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

In middle school, I played basketball and I was the least skilled player on the court I dreaded my turn on game day, however, I lived for practices and loved my teammates. My coach never left me out of a drill and my teammates gave me plenty of chances to score, even if I couldn't make a basket. Being part of a team was important to me as I navigated middle school, and I want every kid to have that opportunity if they choose it.

As a family nurse practitioner, I know that the evidence-based practice states that children are happier and healthier when their identities are respected and accepted. In a survey by The Trevor Project of over 40,000 LGBTQ individuals age 13-24, over half of those who identified as transgender or nonbinary seriously considered suicide in the 12 months preceding the survey. Support and acceptance from their community decreased that risk. To respect and support our youth, transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender identity.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote NO on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Rachel Kiley
508 E. Lakeview Ave.
Madison, WI 53716

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Kristin Beebe, my pronouns are She/Her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I feel strongly about trans inclusion in sports because I want all children to have access to sports in the same way my children have been able to participate: freely and in participation with the teams that best align with their gender. The idea that Trans children and non-binary children pose a threat to fairness in competition is nonsense! This idea is predicated on a lack of knowledge about the complexities of gender. A good primer about what actually defines gender can be found here: [Stop Using Phony Science to Justify Transphobia](#)

Looking at birth certificates, or ogling children's genitals to determine their gender and participation in sports is ignorant and wrong.

Sports can be a healthy enterprise for learning teamwork, gaining bodily skill, and reducing stress. All children benefit from access to learning to work in a group, the confidence one can build from training one's body to perform a skill and the wonderful release sports can offer from the tensions of our lives. Trans and non-binary youth often struggle for acceptance, and placing another barrier to their inclusion in the beneficial arena of sports is unnecessarily cruel.

The damage that is wrought by this legislation is real. Our family supports all of our trans and non-binary friends and we have seen them attacked and maligned in ways that are

shocking. The impact of adults in power actively trying to make it more difficult for kids to live their lives is that other bigots feel empowered to harm and Trans and non-binary children suffer.

Please consider that this legislation is not rooted in sound science, it is harmful to Trans and non-binary youth, and all children deserve equitable access to the benefits of sports.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Kristin Beebe
Kropf Ave.
Madison, WI 53704

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Anna Reiser, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

My child's best friend is trans. They dig in the dirt together, create elaborate chalk drawings on our fence, fill our living room floor with Legos, read books on the couch together, do school work together, and make lightsabers out of paper together. They ask to see each other almost every day. Sometimes they argue.

It might seem like I am describing an everyday childhood friendship. That is because I am. These are just two kids.

I love our child's best friend for who she is, for how she goes on adventures in her imagination with my child, for how she treats my younger child with gentle kindness, and for how she always says "compliments to the chef" when I serve lunch.

My child understands that being transgender means that a person's gender does not match the gender their doctor and parents assumed when they were born. I asked my child what he would say if a trans child wanted to play on the same sports team as him and he said, "sure!" I asked him what he would say if there was a trans child playing on an opposing team that won and he said, "good game!" It is not difficult to be inclusive and kind.

My child and his best friend both deserve a world in which they can thrive and so, I implore you, please do not make the world a harsher place for one of them. Please do not tell one of these children that who they are is wrong by excluding them from valuable activities that will help them grow and learn. I hope you will use your position to protect and affirm transgender and nonbinary children in Wisconsin. I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Anna Reiser
E. North St.
Appleton, WI 54911

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

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Dear Assembly and Senate Members,

Sports are important, but not for the reasons that many people think. I would know; I was in high school cross country for three years, and consistently was one of the slowest people on the team. But besides being the easiest way that I could earn a letter in sports, it was a way for me to make friends, create a healthy lifestyle, and learn good habits as a growing teenager. Although not all youth are into sports, this is still an important part of the lives of many. Sure, some people will excel at sports, and potentially make it into a college opportunity or more, but for a lot of school kids and college students, it's a way to enjoy yourself in a competitive environment and create bonds with your friends and teammates.

When you ban transgender youth from participating in sports with their friends, you aren't protecting the cisgender children; you're harming everyone. You take away the opportunity for these kids to grow and compete and enjoy themselves. Passing this bill would pit youth against each other instead of teaching them teamwork and sportsmanship, which is generally the main point of non-professional sports. And beyond that, passing this bill would show all transgender youth, not just the ones in sports, that the Wisconsin government is willing to go out of its way to cause them grief and harm. If this bill passes, Wisconsin youth will grow up believing that the legislature does not have their best interests at heart, and is not there to represent and support the needs of themselves and those that they care about. The simplest thing that can be done, as adults looking to do what is best for children and young adults, is to not give hateful bills like this the time of day.

As adults, we need to model love, compassion, teamwork, and respect for others so youth and young adults can grow up to do the same in the future. Please model these values by voting against this legislation and letting all Wisconsin kids thrive authentically and enjoy the benefits of participating in sports.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ash Lyke (he/his/him)

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I am a teacher in the Madison Metropolitan School District. I am retiring and beginning a new journey— I begin seminary in Fall with the purpose of becoming a Lutheran pastor.

I am also a transgender woman.

I speak from experience when I say that you do harm in presenting and pushing this legislation. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

And I don't even know how to begin, how to help you understand the harm that is done here, the harm that comes from attacking our children just for existing. Our children who have done nothing wrong to bring on this hateful legislation, these bills that are nothing but fear in search of a problem.

I don't know where to begin, so I will begin with prayer.

I begin with a prayer for those of you who have given way to the short term gain of sponsoring hate and fear in search of a problem. I begin with a prayer that you take a moment, that you breathe in, breathe out, that you take time to listen to the words of love and welcome that have always been the words of the Divine.

Our children are not the problem.

Understand, I grew up in a time when the entirety of society said a girl like me could not exist. That belief, born from exclusion, was wrong then.

It is more wrong now.

I learned to hide my truth. By the time I was in kindergarten, I knew I had to hide. I enjoyed baseball as a child. I loved track and field. I LOVED track and field. But I learned that I was not welcome, though I hid in the form of a boy, I didn't fit. And I could not feel safe in the boy's locker room, though none but me knew my truth. I saw hate toward girls like me tossed out casually in Monty Python skits or Dave Chapelle Riffs, and still and now in hateful screeds from JK Rowling and in legislation like this, sweeping the nation to curry small political gains from those who preach to a false idol of fear.

I stand before you, knowing that my existence is an act of rebellion. And I can rebel. I can survive against the storm. I have survived, buoyed by the love of my powerful wife, my friends, my colleagues and the so so many strangers who forsake silence and speak in love.

But these children you strive to exclude, they should not have to learn that they can only live through resistance to a culture of hate. My childhood was stolen from me by a society that would not understand. Do not persist in that sin by stealing the childhood of our children now.

And I turn now to speak to those of you who choose silence in the face of this hatred. I turn to those of you who say, "Well, it's just an exercise. The bill won't become law anyway because Governor Evers will never sign it." Please understand the children under attack don't have the privilege of complacency. The fear stirred up here will fester unless you speak, unless you stand and say with clarity and strength:

Transgender women are women.

Transgender girls are girls.

Transgender men are men.

Transgender boys are boys.

And non-binary people are so delightfully valid.

And I end in prayer. I pray now for those of you finding your voice in support of love and welcome. I pray for you who know these bills for what they are, hatred cloaked in legalese. I pray that your opposition to these bills is loud, insistent, and continues as we move forward.

I stand in strong opposition to these bills.

Thank you for listening,

Ms. Vica V Steel

DATE: May 26, 2021

SUBJECT: Oppose AB195, AB196, SB 322, and SB 323 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

TO: Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

TO: Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Amelia Ramirez, my pronouns are she-her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

Kids learn a lot of important life lessons in sports, including leadership, confidence, self-respect, and what it means to be part of a team. When we tell transgender girls that they cannot play girls' sports or transgender boys that they cannot play boys' sports, we deny them this important childhood experience and all the lessons sports teach. It can be hard to understand what it means to be transgender, especially if you've never met a transgender person. And it's common to have questions at first. But we can all agree that transgender kids should be treated with dignity and respect, just like everyone else. Local schools across the nation are already creating policies that protect transgender youth and ensure a level playing field for all students—and they're working. Banning transgender youth from playing sports undermines those local efforts. Transgender kids want the opportunity to play sports for the same reason other kids do: to be a part of a team where they feel like they belong.

We should not discriminate against kids and ban them from playing because they are transgender.

Transgender children are somebody's children. They are children just like yours and mine. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and be able to participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Amelia Ramirez
Russett Rd
Madison WI 53711

Subject Line: Oppose AB195, AB196, SB 322, and SB 323 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Elizabeth Just, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, a resident of the City of Madison, a partner to a trans and non binary identifying person, an active athlete and captain of a Womxns Ultimate Frisbee team, an aunt to several young Wisconsin youth, and a friend to many LGBTQ+ youth I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students and athletes. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

All students and athletes want to play on a team, exercise and make friends. When we tell transgender girls that they can't participate in girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches. Schools across the country know that transgender students, like any student, thrive when they are treated with dignity and respect. School officials shouldn't treat a transgender female student as a girl between 8AM-3PM and then treat her like she's a boy when sports practice starts. It's deeply hurtful to the student and disrupts the school's policy of treating all kids fairly. **You're asking a child to be someone they are not.**

You're also making an assumption that a trans athlete has an advantage over the other players and/or other teams. This assumption is misleading and wrong. It doesn't give the entire team and athletes the agency to be inclusive, challenged and competitive in the sport they are playing. Athletes love a challenge, they love strategizing against ANY team that is better ranked, seemingly stronger, faster or more athletic. This PUSHES our teams to be better, work harder, and come together. As an athlete, captain, and coach that has played sports for over 20 years, I know this to be true. This bill is telling ALL ATHLETES they need "help" to win, a disservice to any

athlete. As a nation, we decided long ago that discrimination is wrong and that everyone should have the same opportunities to succeed in life—and that should include transgender youth.

I know there's a reason those who are trying to ban transgender kids from playing sports keep repeating the same two or three examples over and over again. That's because, in a country of more than 300 million people, these are the only examples they have of transgender girls who have won these kinds of titles. **The fact is, 99.9% of kids play sports without ever competing at any kind of elite level.** And the overwhelming majority of transgender youth, like most kids, just want to play and participate in everyday school sports with their peers.

AB196 & AB195 unfairly attack transgender youth who want the same opportunities as any student their age: To join a team, stay healthy, and make friends. We all want to ensure a level playing field in sports. The truth is, every child is different in different ways—which is why some girls excel at gymnastics, others at volleyball, some at basketball, and others at soccer. The overwhelming majority of transgender youth, like most kids, don't even play at elite levels. They just want to play everyday school sports and participate with their peers.

Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Just

123 W. Gorham St

Madison, WI 53703

justx027@gmail.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E Just", with a stylized flourish at the end.

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I'm writing to submit my written testimony opposing AB195. This legislation won't protect girls' sports and won't promote fairness—it will further marginalize and endanger the most vulnerable children in our communities. There's already abundant evidence that transgender women and girls don't have an unfair advantage in sports, any more than transgender men and boys do. What they do have is an elevated risk of social exclusion, depression, and suicide. Kids who want to participate in sports should be encouraged to do so, and to do as their authentic selves, in the social setting where they feel most comfortable.

WIAA's current policy is more than adequate to ensure fairness without risking the wellbeing of the student athletes who most need our support. AB195 won't protect anyone—there's no need to protect anyone from transgender women and girls. AB195 will harm people I value and love, and I firmly oppose on the grounds of both fairness and basic human decency.

Laura McKenzie Zeiss

Scranton Ct.

Madison, WI 53719

She/her

To the Assembly Committee on Education, the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities, and the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families

“Good afternoon. My name is Franny Donovan and I am a recent graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. I was raised for the majority of my life in the Madison area and in middle school and college, competed in girls varsity cross country and track and field. I was the captain of the girls cross country team and a sectional qualifier for cross country for all four years. I decided to continue my passion for endurance running into college, competing my first year on the cross country team at UWEC and joining the Triathlon Club. After coming to terms with my sexuality and gender, coming out as nonbinary, I quit the cross country team due to the climate and fear. Since then, competing in triathlons regionally and collegiately has been my main athletic focus. I met a lifelong goal of mine and completed Ironman 70.3 Wisconsin in 2019. However, I have recently decided to pursue gender affirming hormone treatment, which makes me ineligible to compete in the vast majority of triathlon competitions, especially those on the collegiate level. This has been an incredibly difficult situation for me to be in, since competing in endurance races and triathlons is my biggest passion. My lifelong dream has always been to complete an Ironman, and I fear I will never be able to achieve that. I urge you, please consider allowing all athletes of all gender identities the ability to compete in school, college, and beyond. I don't want athletes like myself being forced to choose between being their authentic self and pursuing their athletic passions. Thank you.”

Thank you,
Franny Donovan

To the Assembly Committee on Education, Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities, and the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families

This is my verbal testimony.

Hello my name is Nikolaus Spittlemeister. I am a recent graduate of Uw eau claire and will be starting my career with the federal deposit insurance corporation as a bank examiner. I was born and raised in Wisconsin and participated in high and middle school athletics. I was a student athlete at hartford union and Germantown high school. I participated in wrestling, golf and softball. I always wished I could have played baseball with the other boys. I will never forget the day I had my last tball game at 6 years old. I turned to my dad and said why can't I play with all the boys next year. They were my friends and teammates. He told me girls play softball not baseball. It never felt right playing with the girls and not the boys. I never want or would wish anyone to feel the immense pain and discomfort to any child playing on the wrong team because of their gender identity. At 21 i started my transition as a man. I have never been so happy in my life. My anxiety and depression faded away and my confidence soared. I applaud and commend all trans youth athletes who have the courage to participate or, try to...in the sports that align with their gender identity. The confidence they embrace to play amongst their peers especially at a young age. I wish I had the confidence to do the same then. I can't take it back but I can fight for the trans youth today and tomorrow to not experience what I did. I can assure you that trans athletes are here to play the game, as I am, and not trying to find an advantage to win. My freshman year of high school I wanted to play football. I was so excited because my mother emailed the coach asking if I could play despite living as a girl at the time and he said yes. My mom drove me to the first practice. I became so scared to leave the car and play because of the judgement of the boys. I told her i want to go home and as we pulled out of the parking lot I cried. I was not trying to play the sport because I wanted to have a competitive advantage. I wanted to have fun and compete as the young man Ive always been. This bill will not only affect trans athletes but also the cis boys and girls who want to play sports that are not offered at their school. For example, gymnastics is dominated by girls but there are boys who are gymnasts but are excluded and denied access to thier sport because of their assigned sex. No child deserves to be denied an opportunity to participate in a sport and making valuable friendships because of something they cannot control. I ask you that you to oppose this Bill.

Thanks!

Nikolaus Spittlemeister

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Quince Mountain, my pronouns are he/they, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Wisconsin's students should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I live in the rural Northwoods, I'm trans, and I make my living as a professional adventure athlete. I believe and hope that my participation in challenges like Discovery's *Naked and Afraid* and Alaska's *Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race* reflect well on the state of Wisconsin. I can truly say that without the support of my rural Wisconsin community, my team and I would not have been able to accomplish what we have.

I have a problem with how people discuss this proposed legislation as though it "only affects a small percentage of kids in Wisconsin." That's not how I see it, because that's not how teams or peer groups work. Sports are a powerful force in kids' lives because of the camaraderie and teamwork involved. When a teammate is lost, the whole team loses—and that includes kids who aren't trans or nonbinary and simply want to play with their friends.

If our representatives choose to interfere in the composition of local school sports teams, effectively barring trans people from participating, our state and our local sports teams become artificially limited. In that case, Wisconsin will lose out on the contributions of trans and nonbinary student athletes.

That isn't only a loss for trans kids. That's a loss for all of us.

Sincerely,

Quince Mountain
14816 Whiffen Ln
Mountain, WI 54149

Hi, my name is Rachel. It's an honor to speak to you today to stand up for the rights of some of the kindest and most brave students that I've ever had, in the face of hate coming from adults who have lost their way.

In my life, I've coached kid's sports such as gymnastics, martial arts, and horseback riding; I've worked at summer camps and many schools with children of all ages; and in general I've worked with kids for as long as I can remember.

I started participating in martial arts when I was four years old. When I was a child and adolescent I participated competitively, both as an individual and on a team, all across the United States.

In the karate circuit, competitions were "co-ed", and including all genders really had no impact on the outcome even for the most competitive of students. That's because a child's gender identity has no impact on their ability to learn lessons about leadership, teamwork, respect, and focus.

In leadership role after leadership role that I've served in, I've made connections with young people and their families. I've sat up with homesick campers in the middle of the night. I've facilitated hard conversations with friends who are fighting, or children who are bullying others. I've had personal conversations with students who were depressed or who had attempted suicide.

What I can tell you from these experiences, as well as my training in child development, is that kids are not organically concerned about what genitals are in another child's pants. Kids care about the social aspects of things, like how they are being perceived by their peers. They want to fit in and they want other people around them to like them. Many kids that I have coached actually come to sports because they are seeking a safe haven from problems in the rest of their lives; or simply looking for a team environment where they will feel accepted.

There are no real examples of trans athletes somehow overtaking sports. Bills AB195, AB196, SB322, and SB323 seek to solve a made up problem, and take up a lot of everyone's time in the process. The reality is that no adult should be so worried about a child's genitals, and the fixation on this amounts to abuse on trans children.

While there is no empirical evidence that trans athletes should be restricted from competing, there is PLENTY of empirical evidence showing the negative outcomes for LGBTQIA+ students when they aren't accepted for who they are.

Opposing these bills is suicide prevention. Opposing these bills is setting kids up for a long and happy life. Opposing these bills is the only responsible thing to do for the children of our state. Opposing these bills saves lives. Thanks.

Committee Chairman, Committee Members present today, thank you for the opportunity to provide personal testimony on behalf of our experience raising our daughter, Simone, who is transgender, and our firm opposition to the Assembly Bill 196: designating athletic sports and teams operated or sponsored by public schools or private schools participating in a parental choice program based on the sex of the participants. We find this bill to be needlessly exclusionary and damaging to the health and well-being of LGBTQ+ youth.

Our names are Adrienne Walden and Andrew Patrie. We live in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and we are proud parents of our daughter Simone.

When our daughter shared with us that she is transgender, the most profound worry was how the world would receive her, would she find her place, her tribe, would she experience acceptance outside of our home/social circle of support. Our daughter grew up around other kids and teachers knowing her identity, so her elementary school years were relatively safe. This is best exemplified by the welcome she received when she asked to be a part of Girls on the Run. The fact this organization saw Simone for who she was, and honored that, boosted Simone's self-confidence to no end.

When our daughter transitioned to middle school, the social possibilities broadened, as did our concerns. Here, for the first time, she would find herself in a swirl of students and teachers who did not know her story. How would they respond? She immediately signed up for choir, which is her passion, and also volleyball. The latter choice was uncharacteristic; aside from swimming in pools and lakes, our daughter hadn't indicated any interest in athletics, and her decision was largely driven by the fact some of her girlfriends had signed up. We said go for it. She had a blast being a part of the team and working with her coach and fellow teammates. Admittedly, she wasn't a star player: serves were as likely to ricochet off the ceiling as they were to move away from the net, but she was having fun and, most importantly, was just one of the girls. It would have been devastating to her to have been told she was not allowed to play this sport because of who she is. That she does not belong in this space.

Programs, like middle school volleyball, have contributed to our daughter's healthy and positive mental attitude. She has developed close friendships as a result of her inclusion. The thought of her not having opportunities like this in the future is yet another thing keeping us up at night. My husband teaches at a local high school and is the advisor for the school's Gender-Sexuality Alliance (GSA) club and has witnessed, first hand, the kind of mental anguish these children who identify as LGBTQ+ experience when they are not acknowledged in the classroom, the locker room, or the living room of their homes. While we cannot control what happens in a student's home, we can make sure public schools are welcoming and inclusive, which is why Assembly Bill 196 must be opposed. It is antithetical to any school district mission statement we can find.

We thank the committee for their time.

My name is Andi Janeway. My pronouns are they/them/theirs. I am an artist-in-residence with Whoopsocket, an arts education program here in Madison. I'm no athlete (hashtag theater kid), but I do have a lifetime of experience being transgender. And, through my work as a teaching artist, I have the ongoing blessing of working with transgender and nonbinary youth. You'll note that I will be using the phrase "transgender and nonbinary youth" a lot. I am choosing not to omit this phrase, no matter how repetitive it is or uncomfortable some may be, because, after all, isn't that who we are here to talk about?

I'm not here to debate the scientific validity of transgender and nonbinary existence. The simple fact of the matter is that transgender and nonbinary people exist. Transgender and nonbinary youth exist, whether or not you want them to.

There are children here in Wisconsin, here in Madison, who are asking you to allow them to live. They are not asking for preferential treatment. In fact, they are asking you to treat them as you treat their peers. This is not a difficult task. I am speaking from experience as a transgender individual as well as an educator who works with transgender and nonbinary youth when I tell you that affirming transgender and nonbinary youth is not a difficult task, and it starts with letting this bill die.

Affirming transgender and nonbinary youth is a life-saving measure. Allowing transgender and nonbinary youth to exist authentically as themselves in every facet of life is vital to their mental and physical well-being. I'd like to take a moment to point out that this is, still, not preferential treatment. It is our sacred duty as educators, mentors, coaches, legislators, caregivers, and guardians to affirm the existence of all the youth we are entrusted with. This is the foundation of our work. We are the people who are trusted to make decisions, big and small, for the children of our community. Decisions which unequivocally affect the safety and quality of life of the children of our community. It is our responsibility to be discerning with those decisions, to not let ourselves be overcome with reactionary fear, to resist the urge to uphold the party line, to fight back against harmful narratives, and to do right by the children and youth we are responsible for protecting.

Bills like the ones being presented today are often described as a protective measure. But where is the protection? Are you protecting cisgender youth by separating them from their teammates, their friends? Are you protecting transgender and nonbinary youth by singling them out? By further marginalizing them, tossing them into underfunded, if available at all, programs? And that doesn't even address the traumatizing measures which would be taken to ensure this segregation is enforced. This bill will do irrevocable harm to transgender, nonbinary, and cisgender youth. It is patently immoral and unconscionable, and I urge you to vote against it.

The safety of the children of our communities is at stake. I urge you all to listen to the members of our communities who are speaking up to protect transgender, nonbinary, and cisgender youth against this odious, morally objectionable bill.

Thank you for your time.

AB-195 (UW-System) and AB-196 (K-12) Proposed Anti-Transgender Legislation In Sports
<https://openstates.org/wi/bills/2021/AB195/>
<https://openstates.org/wi/bills/2021/AB196/>

Members of the Legislature,

I regret that I am not speaking with you in person, but on the day of this hearing I will be traveling with the University of Wisconsin-Madison to the Rowing National Championships.

In the era that I was recruited to be a collegiate athlete, rowing was not an NCAA sport, and there were half as many participants and teams. Rowers are typically tall, strong women, and the women often had spent their youth trying to hide their stature, and they were often hesitant to lift weights and get "too bulky". Once they were immersed in a culture where their height and their strength were viewed as assets, these same women blossomed in confidence, stood tall and often had their first experience of being comfortable in their own skin.

Equally powerful have been my experiences coaching women recovering from cancer, in a program called Recovery on Water. This program helps those surviving cancer reclaim their bodies, in a body often ravaged by their treatment. It is a method by which they find confidence in their new and often very different bodies, and a tribe for a battle that is never completely over. Sport is a vessel through which they find their new identity, as a survivor, a teammate and an athlete.

Most recently, parenthood has compelled me to extend my coaching experience to youth soccer. While I don't have any competitive soccer experience, it rapidly became apparent that more important was my ability to set the tone for my daughters' experiences - teaching the team to value hard work, fun, and supporting their teammates above all else. These teams have been co-ed from the beginning, and we have progressed, at times the biological male players have been stronger and faster, and at times the biological females have eclipsed them. Now in the pre-teen years, we have several players who identify as non-binary. Throughout it all, with the right leadership from the adults around them, they continue to be great, supportive teammates to each other. Each athlete is being given the time and space to discover their own gender & orientation, just as they are exploring their identity in many other aspects of their lives.

The common denominator in all my coaching experiences is how empowering sport can be. So often, athletes have been able to find their confidence, their courage, their identity through their sport and their teammates. Transgender and non-binary people are among our most vulnerable, and statistically far more likely to suffer depression and commit suicide. Community, like that created by sports, can help inoculate them against this risk.

At no level in sports do transgender athletes put fair play at risk. At the youth level, the speed at which kids grow and move through puberty has far more impact on their performance, than their gender identity does. An athlete going through a medical transition is already struggling through such significant change in their body, their experience is more similar to the cancer

survivors who have had reconstructive surgery -- transition could never provide them a physiological advantage, even without considering the mental and emotional load. Finally, the athletes at the college level already have rules that govern this - the NCAA has and enforces rules requiring an athlete to be a year into their transition before they can compete in alignment with their gender identity. Similar rules are in place at the international level. None of them ban participation, as your bill seeks to.

In short - I have absolutely no concerns about having a transgender athlete on my teams, or competing against my teams. This is true for my Badgers, who are competing for a national championship on Friday, or my daughters in their U12 and U10 soccer matches on Saturday. Their opportunities don't need protecting. Their friends and teammates' opportunities to learn who they are, in their own time, is what needs protecting.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Christie Lalande

*Volunteer Rowing Coach, Wisconsin Women's Rowing, 2010 Big Ten Champions
Volunteer Rowing Coach, Michigan Men's and Women's Rowing Programs, 2004 & 2005 Big Ten Champions
Coach, Recovery on Water "RowBlue" Camp, Chicago Illinois
Founding Coach, WeCanRow cancer recovery program, Madison Wisconsin*

Protect Trans Students

Lydia Rhoads

Five years ago I moved to Wisconsin with my husband and our young children. Over a thousand miles from any family, we went about the business of seeking out community and putting down roots. We chose the North East area of the state when search after search listed Appleton and the surrounding Fox Valley as safe and family friendly.

It wasn't long after our move that our oldest child found the words to tell us about her true self. She began to socially transition with our full support. The safety we had hoped to find turned out to be an illusion. Transphobia reared its ugly head time and time again. She lost friends when their parents refused to allow my daughter to play with their children. A stranger took it upon himself to teach her fear when he stopped to scream profanities as my daughter walked to the playground with her father. At her first school the principal asked not how she could support my daughter, but what to do when other parents found out. She was mistreated by her classmates and traumatized by her experiences.

It has taken over a year of homeschooling, therapy, and a move to a new town and school system for my daughter to feel safe returning to the classroom. At present she is attending a school where she has only ever been known by her chosen, now legal, name. Her classmates have only ever known her true self. She is making friends and she is asking to play school sports in the future with her friends and peers.

For my daughter to ask to join a team is a monumental success and should be celebrated. Instead laws are being considered to keep her off of teams that would benefit her physical, mental, and emotional health.

In Wisconsin there are limitations enough that make the lives of transgender residents more difficult and dangerous than that of their cisgender counterparts. Transgender residents are required to undergo surgery before their legal documents such as birth certificates and drivers' licenses can be corrected. Many are unable to meet this requirement and as such are outed every time they need to show these documents, and are thus placed in potential danger.

Don't add another barrier to equity. Don't force my daughter and all those like her to choose between outing themselves and participating in school sports with their peers. Don't legalize transphobia and expose countless students to trauma.

I believe Wisconsin can be better. Tell all transgender residents, no matter their age, that they are welcome, valued, and their rights will be protected. Vote against the proposed legislation and take a step towards bringing Wisconsin into a future of equity and justice.

Hello committee members and thank you to the chair for giving me time to speak today. My name is Oliver Gibbs, I am a transmasculine non-binary student at the University of Wisconsin – Stout and currently serving as Director of Sustainability for the Stout Student Association, the student government for the University. The SSA represents all students of campus, and on April 20th, 2021, as a legislative body we unanimously passed a resolution condemning these bills. But I must make clear I am not here for or speaking on behalf of the Stout Student Association, however I am here as an elected leader to support and represent my constituents just as you are.

First and foremost, I need to make clear that transgender women are women and deserve equal rights as cisgender individuals. Trans women experience enough discrimination everyday just living their lives, they do not need more when trying to participate in a game of club frisbee golf. Specifically targeting trans women in this bill is an act of transphobia against innocent Wisconsin LGBTQIA+ individuals and insinuates that the state has not grown empathetically or socially with shifts in gender and sexual equality.

I notice the bill states no direct reason for banning exclusively trans women instead of all trans athletes from competing in the sports that their gender aligns with. I would assume this is, and correct me if I am wrong, because of the numerous complaints of top athletes being trans women and having “an inherent biological advantage” over their cisgender competitors.

The argument of Trans women having an “inherent biological advantage” is a myth over fact. An “inherent biological advantage” could mean height, weight, bone size, or any number of varying physical factors found within same sex individuals. A cisgender woman who is five foot two inches playing against a cisgender woman who is six foot two inches is still at an inherent biological disadvantage due to the size of the same sex opponent, even differing body types and size of shoulders or hip bones of same sex individuals can be considered a disadvantage. Trans individuals, just like same sex individuals

will also have hormonal differences. Cisgender women can also have increased testosterone levels without any form of hormone therapy, and cisgender men can have increased estrogen levels as shown with the medical condition gynecomastia. Even pituitary tumors which affect sexual development, sexual dysfunction, or even changes in menstrual cycles can also affect hormone levels in cisgender men and women.

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association has also had a transgender policy in place since 2013 stating: "male-to-female student must have one calendar year of medically documented testosterone suppression therapy to be eligible to participate on a female team, consistent with WIAA policy." The WIAA has only received a "handful of complaints" in the eight years this policy has been in effect. *Source: WISN. (2021, March 4). WIAA has had few complaints about Wisconsin transgender athlete policy. WISN. <https://www.wisn.com/article/wiaa-has-had-few-complaints-about-wisconsin-transgender-athlete-policy/35717098#>.*

To end my testimony, why is it fair to your trans constituents for you to use the law against them? The goal of a trans individual is not to have an advantage over you or your children, but to live life the same as any cisgender individual. I, as a trans individual, wish I could have the same rights and expectations as my cisgender colleagues without fear of judgement or immediate failure. I urge you to view trans individuals not as "trans" compared to "cis" but as individuals wanting to live their lives as normal, happy, healthy Wisconsinites. Thank you.

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Below is my testimony in reference to AB196 & AB195:

As a small business owner in Madison, WI I oppose both bills AB195 & AB196. These bills infringe upon the rights of athletes by invalidating certain athletes' identities in harmful ways.

All the Best

Nick Ryan

Good morning everyone and thank you to the chair for giving me time to speak today. My name is Cody Gentz, I'm a student at the University of Wisconsin – Stout and lifelong Wisconsinite. I am currently serving as the Director of Financial Affairs for the Stout Student Association, our Student Government on campus. On April 20th, we as a Senate unanimously condemned this bill on behalf of the nearly 7,000 strong UW-Stout student body. I am here today to advocate against this bill, in line with the Student Association's position, but also to add my own views that are not officially affiliated or on behalf of the Student Association. I am here representing my constituents, which I am sure you can understand.

Though I am not a transgender individual, I have family, friends, and constituents who are, and it is vital that we hear and amplify their voices. It is important to state that this bill, in essence, would establish a discriminatory policy that ignores the plight of many transgender students and youth throughout our state. This bill would force transgender individuals to become someone they are not to participate in any level of sports including but not limited to intercollegiate, intramural, or club sports.

But while this bill may specifically address only sports, passing it would send a much larger message. A message that Wisconsin is intolerant and does not respect the struggles of our transgender community. On March 30th, 2021, one of the cosponsors of this bill, Representative Moses, came to speak with our Student Association and made a very good point – we need to prevent the loss of local talent. We need to make Wisconsin a place that people want to live in – we want people to stay here after college and use their talents to start businesses, contribute to our society, and enrich our communities. This bill actively works against that aim. It tells prospective UW students and the nation at large that we care more about excluding people than building an open and welcoming community.

To end my testimony, I want to emphasize that the comfort of trans and nonbinary individuals is the most important when talking about this and similar bills. This bill is unequivocally discriminatory and detrimental to the State of Wisconsin and our LGBTQIA+ communities. Thank you.

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

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To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I write as a concerned parent and community member, regarding current bills about transgender athletes that are being considered by the Wisconsin State Legislature.

I am deeply concerned at the proposal of legislation that would deny some of our neighbors and community members equal access to participation in school sports. Not only are these bills based on false premises about biological sex that medical doctors and biologists have continually refuted, but they are inherently discriminatory, creating unequal access tantamount to the various forms of racist segregation that have been so shameful to our nation's history. I sincerely hope that Wisconsin does not follow in those footsteps.

If such a bill were enacted, I am deeply concerned that school officials, particularly in public and private schools for children, would be placed in the position of verifying and policing children's genitals. I find this obsession with children's "sex" to be highly suspect and tantamount to child abuse. The matter of a student's "sex assigned at birth" is, frankly, not the business of educational institutions. Such institutions should, rather, be concerned with educating the students of Wisconsin.

These discriminatory bills will teach children that segregation and bigoted discrimination is acceptable; that denying their friends' and neighbors' rights of access to the same educational opportunities as their peers is to be tolerated. I would be ashamed to have to explain to my child that he simply should not respect either the creators or enforcers of these rules. But I will not lie to my child about inequality or hide it from him, even while he might be personally unaffected by these bills.

In truth, I would not allow my child to participate in activities that deliberately excluded his trans peers any more than I would allow him to participate in activities that deliberately excluded racial or religious minorities. Moreover, I hope that other conscientious parents and students -- from the elementary to college level -- would likewise boycott participating in discriminatory athletic organizations and urge them toward better alternatives.

As an employee of the Wisconsin state university system, I fear that bills denying trans athletes the right to participate in school sports will harm the reputation of our colleges and universities, making it increasingly difficult to recruit students to our already underfunded institutions. A bill that creates discriminatory practices in collegiate sports may well cause us to lose some of our best student athletes as well as some of our best students, more generally, who wish to attend institutions that don't discriminate against their peers. If these bills are passed, we will likely deter both in-state and out-of-state students from attending our institutions of higher learning, who will find equitable opportunities elsewhere. This may also make it more difficult for us to recruit and retain the best faculty at these institutions, as faculty with options may well want to teach at institutions at which their students do not have to spend their time fighting for basic equal rights and can instead focus on their studies.

My husband and I are both cisgender people, as is (to the best of our knowledge) our child. I write today because I believe it is the particular responsibility of privileged people to speak up against civil rights violations that will affect others who have been targeted by hate. Although these bills will not affect my family directly, I realize that these forms of legislation are often marketed as measures that will "protect" cisgender people. I want therefore to assure you that my family and I vehemently reject this pretense at protection in our names. We want to live in a society in which our trans neighbors and friends, our local college students, and our child's classmates are treated fairly. We

want our state to protect the civil rights of ALL its citizens, allowing trans students to have the same opportunities to participate in school activities as we have had, as cisgender people.

I urge the State Legislature to flatly reject these discriminatory bills and to return to issues that will actually benefit the people of Wisconsin, rather than working to deny some of our citizens their due civil rights.

Sincerely,
Dr. Brigitte Fielder
(she/her/hers)
East Dayton Street
Madison, WI 53703

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Laura Rivera, my pronouns are she,her, hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender, and not with their assigned sex.

USA hockey permits children to play on all gender teams (if they are interested in doing so), and there are psychological benefits to having inclusive play across multiple genders. As someone who published research on gender pronoun perception, and has advocated for allowing children to self-identify, I recognize and acknowledge the need for trans inclusion in sports.

In my youth, I participated in all gender teams and having a diverse group of teammates allowed me the opportunity to learn what it means to be a team with many types of people. From a biological standpoint, people of all sexes can have a range of specific hormones that should not dictate where they play. If we want to produce children who are confident in themselves, who can work with others, and feel like they can authentically participate in society, we should allow them to play on sports teams that align with their gender.

I myself play in the Madison Gay Hockey Association, where as adults, we play on all gender teams - if USA hockey can form all gender teams, why can't we allow children to play where they feel safe, included, and like themselves.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Laura (Laur) Rivera
Waldorf Blvd #311,
Madison, WI 53719

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.
Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

To whom it may concern regarding AB195,

I'm a constituent and am writing in opposition of the AB195 Anti-Trans Athlete Bill in Wisconsin. I am a student at East High School, and I believe if this bill is passed it will be harmful to many of my fellow students. Because of this bill I feel transgender students will no longer feel safe and respected at school.

In a study published by the American Academy of Pediatrics, over half of transgender youth reported attempting suicide at least once in their lifetime. Last year in the U.S., 44 trans or gender-nonconforming people were *killed* for just being who they were. Many trans people must live in unsafe conditions and experience harassment from family and others. If we don't affirm and support these teens at school, who will?

Our students should be given basic respect, regardless of their sexuality or gender. That includes allowing them to play with the gender of the team they are affirmed with.

Sincerely,

Lyra Houston
790 South Vandenberg Rd

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Mindy Trudell, my pronouns are she/her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I am a school social worker in an elementary school. In the past several years our school has worked hard to become a more supportive place for LGBTQ+ families and kids. We have worked with several families and students who have shared that they, "finally found a community where we feel welcome". We know that this feeling of belonging, of being in relationship and community are key to emotional well-being as well as academic learning. Given this, it should be our obligation in public schools to make sure that all of our students and their families, particularly LGBTQ+ and BIPOC folks who have been historically excluded, feel a sense of belonging in our educational institutions. This should extend to our sports facilities.

We know that transgender and nonbinary youth are at a much higher risk for suicide, not completing high school and other negative outcomes. We also know that participating in sports decreases these risks for students. Sports provides a sense of being part of something bigger than oneself, of responsibility to one's team, and provides a relationship with a caring adult in coaches. These are the very things that can give an additional dose of resiliency to our struggling trans and nonbinary youth.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Mindy Trudell, MSW
Elmside Blvd, Madison, WI 53704

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Claire Ninneman, my pronouns are she/her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I believe these bills will sabotage future opportunities for trans individuals, students, and adults in terms of physical development, education, and even future career paths. The rewards other athletes reap in the form of camaraderie, scholarships, travel opportunities, school choice, future careers, etc. absolutely can be impacted by these bills, all while ostracising, excluding, and exposing them to further institutional discrimination if these kinds of bills pass. And cornering and forcing them to choose between all of this and identify wrongly endangers these children.

And for presently cisgender children around then, this will impact them as well as they learn it is okay to exclude and other trans children from activities they have a right to, and the fruits that come from them, in a climate that already struggles to manage the many forms of bullying present in schools in general and especially against trans children.

I have a nonbinary and found family nibling involved in their respective sports. My nibling has already struggled to find their niche and is, at last, participating in sports they are really enjoying and finding support in them. They already struggle in finding acceptance outside sports, not only as they are, but to feel they have the right to exist period. My nibling's well-being and future opportunities can very well be endangered by this and that is why I am speaking up.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Claire Ninneman
S. Logan Avenue #206
Milwaukee WI, 53207

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

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I am disheartened to learn that Republicans have submitted legislation that would ban transgender kids from participation on school sports teams that match their gender identity.

Bills like this are especially dangerous because they pull opportunities for healthy development away from children and are based on faulty science. It also impedes their social development since trans kids will perceive themselves as unwanted in a lot of spaces.

You may not know a trans kid and this may not affect anyone in your circle. That doesn't mean you should allow this to happen to these kids.

Please vote no on AB 195 and AB 196. These bills are bad sportsmanship.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Craig, an ally and supporter of Louise!

Lynne Steiner
2111 Oakridge Avenue
Madison, WI 53704
May 24th, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Oppose AB195, AB196, SB 322, and SB 323 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

My name is Lynne Steiner, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As an educator and social worker in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

- Kids learn a lot of important life lessons in sports: leadership, confidence, self-respect, and what it means to be part of a team. When we tell transgender girls that they can't play girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches.
- Schools across the country know that transgender students, like any student, thrive when they are treated with dignity and respect. School officials shouldn't treat a transgender female student as a girl between 8AM-3PM and then treat her like she's a boy when sports practice starts. It's deeply hurtful to the student and disrupts the school's policy of treating all kids fairly.

It can be hard to understand what it means to be transgender, especially if you've never met a transgender person. And it's common to have questions at first. But we can all agree that transgender kids should be treated with dignity and respect, just like everyone else. As someone who works with transgender youth that are resilient, beautiful, and brilliant—this legislation is hateful and harmful to their existence. Please uplift their voices and lives and let them play sports.

- Local schools across the nation are already creating policies that protect transgender youth and ensure a level playing field for all students—and they're working. Banning transgender youth from playing sports undermines those local efforts.
- Transgender kids want the opportunity to play sports for the same reason other kids do: to be a part of a team where they feel like they belong. We shouldn't discriminate against kids and ban them from playing because they're transgender.

This is really about LGBTQ people being treated fairly across all areas of life. Respect people and their identities. Do not deny them health care, housing, or the opportunity to play sports. Let's show our kids that their school, state, and country care about them. Let's honor their childhood and development regardless of their gender identity. All people are human beings and as such and deserve dignity, respect, and inclusion.

I believe transgender children deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Lynne Steiner, APSW
School Social Worker, Madison Metropolitan School District
lynnemarie92@gmail.com

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Kelli Martino, my pronouns are they/them, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

The benefits of participating in sports are plentiful: learning how to work hard toward a goal, how to work as a team, camaraderie, physical exercise, dedication, sportsmanship, and the list goes on. All kids should have a chance to experience these and other benefits from sports.

Sports have always been and continue to be a large part of my life. It took decades for me to understand who I am as a nonbinary person and to put into words why I rarely felt like I belonged. The exception to this was when I got to play a variety of sports throughout my childhood. It was a chance to have fun, build friendships, learn the joys and frustrations of winning and losing, and how hard work and dedication can lead to success, among other things. Participating in sports allowed me to feel like there was a place for me in the world and a way to be myself. It also was a large source of many life lessons growing up. All kids deserve the chance to experience everything that participating in sports offers.

Last but not least, I'd like to ask you to remember that trans and nonbinary people are people. We're humans that laugh, cry, celebrate, and grieve, just like you.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Kelli Martino
5 Wilton Ct, Madison WI 53704

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record

As a teacher in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I pride my work and the work of those around me in our values of creating accessible education that honors our students' story and acknowledges their experiences. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity. Why? Because this legislation does not represent the values of an inclusive school district that promotes safe and equitable learning spaces for all students.

Simply stated, all students who want to participate in sports should have the freedom to do so. That includes transgender students. AB196 and AB195 are an attack to transgender students who deserve the same opportunities as any student their age, regardless of gender identity. This attack is coming from anti-LGBTQIA+ lawmakers who are openly choosing to use their leadership to attack transgender youth athletes who have the audacity to exist in our school systems. I do not stand for this and neither should any self-respecting educator who wants what is best for all students, regardless of gender identity.

We all want to ensure a level playing field in sports. The truth is, every child is different in different ways—which is why some girls excel at gymnastics, others at volleyball, some at basketball, and others at soccer. The overwhelming majority of transgender youth, like most kids, don't even play at elite levels. They just want to play everyday school sports and participate with their peers. Additionally, if these students DO excel at their sport, they deserve the opportunity to shine amongst their like-skilled peers and achieve new heights for themselves.

Transgender children are still children and it is our job as educators to protect and support them when they are in our schools.

I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Keely Johnson
Madison WI

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

In elementary, middle and high school, sports are something that make life worth living. Something to show up to school for, to get out of bed for, to work for, and to have a community with. Taking away the right to play a sport as the gender that you live, breathe, and identify with each and every day is taking away the right to choose a healthy lifestyle for trans children. As early as the age of 2 a child knows what gender they most identify with. To tell a child that they cannot be who they are and play sports simultaneously is stripping them of the ability to truly be free. Many trans people do not feel comfortable enough to accept themselves for who they truly are until adulthood, if ever, because of laws like this that suppress the trans community and make who they are, seem like something that's not an option. Passing these bills will only cause children who struggle with their gender identity to spiral and feel even more lost in this world. Let them be and let them play. Let them be free.

Mari Belina
N Mills St. Madison WI

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Leslie Grant, my pronouns are she and her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I feel that not allowing people to play on teams that best align with their gender is discriminatory and I think that discrimination is wrong. When we discriminate we do not teach our children the value of full inclusion of people who experience differences from the norm. Everyone benefits from knowing people who have different life experiences.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Leslie Grant
Rough Lee Ct.
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Max, my pronouns are He/they, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As an 8th grade student in the Madison Metropolitan School District, who is part of the LGBTQ+ community, this legislation makes me feel left out, discriminated against, and scared. I believe that these bills should not be passed! Our LGBTQ+ community has worked hard to overcome these kinds of discriminatory practices, and these bills have us moving backwards, not forwards. I believe that transgender kids should be able to play sports because we are humans beings and we should have the same opportunities as cisgender kids.

I'd like to let you know three reasons why students, including transgender and nonbinary students, love to play sports: Teamwork, Sportsmanship, and Leadership. These are all important lessons which kids learn in sports and all kids should be able to have these opportunities. Most students want to play sports—to be on a team, exercise, and make friends. When we tell transgender girls that they can't participate in girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—or nonbinary kids they can't play sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches.

There's a reason those who are trying to ban transgender kids from playing sports keep repeating the same two or three examples over and over again. That's because, in a country of more than 300 million people, these are the only examples they have of transgender girls who have won these kinds of titles. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. Nonbinary children are children. I believe they all deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and nonbinary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Max Chu
Student at Madison Metropolitan School District

Sabertooth Ln Madison, WI 53719

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Rebecca Galvan, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

Kids learn a lot of important life lessons in sports: leadership, confidence, self-respect, and what it means to be part of a team. When we tell transgender girls that they can't play girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches.

It can be hard to understand what it means to be transgender, especially if you've never met a transgender person. And it's common to have questions at first. But we can all agree that transgender kids should be treated with dignity and respect, just like everyone else.

Local schools across the nation are already creating policies that protect transgender youth and ensure a level playing field for all students—and they're working. Banning transgender youth from playing sports undermines those local efforts.

Transgender kids want the opportunity to play sports for the same reason other kids do: to be a part of a team where they feel like they belong. We shouldn't discriminate against kids and ban them from playing because they're transgender.

Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics.

I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rebecca Galvan
North St, Madison WI

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

To Whom It May Concern Re: Assembly Bill 196:

I am writing to voice both my opposition to and deep concerns about Assembly Bill 196. As a licensed Wisconsin School Social Worker and my school district's LGBTQ+ Coordinator, I have had the honor and privilege of serving numerous students who identify as transgender or non-binary in my career thus far. Every single one of these students is worthy of dignity, respect, and feelings of safety in all areas of their lives, *especially* when they are in school. I truly believe that this bill poses a major threat to their dignity, expectation of respect, and feelings of safety within our schools.

The ability to participate in sports and co-curricular activities, while not essential to one's education, is essential to some students' feelings of belonging. Feelings of 'belonging happen to also be mitigating factors against risk-taking behaviors, and they are crucial to students' perceptions of safety in school. Further, participation in sports allows students to gain and build upon the skills that are highly valued by future employers: accountability to teammates, time management, interpersonal communication, conflict resolution, loyalty, problem solving while under stress, and the list goes on. To deny student athletes the opportunity to participate in sports based on their sex assigned at birth is to deny them meaningful opportunities to gain these skills in real-life situations outside of the classroom. This is both wrong and discriminatory.

Furthermore, there are many transgender girls who pass as cisgender girls in the school setting. Some students have always been known to their peers and teachers as girls; if passed, this bill would put them in the position to be both outed at school as transgender and to miss out on

opportunities to participate in asset-building opportunities. Putting any student in the position to make these choices is socially and psychologically damaging, not to mention demoralizing. This has great potential to make students feel devalued and unsafe at school, which is supposed to be a place where all students feel welcome and safe all the time.

Thank you for your time, and please vote in opposition to this bill that damages some of our most vulnerable children and youth.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Wetzel Gracyalny
School Social Worker and Parent
Thrush Street
Green Bay, WI 54303

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Zach Sielaff, my pronouns are he/him, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I have the good fortune to play hockey with a number of trans athletes in the Madison Gay Hockey Association, and I've seen up close just how important being part of a team is for them, as it is for everyone else. To deny such opportunities to trans youth and young adults attending high school and college is to deny them something vital that us cis-people take for granted. This is simply not the way to treat our fellow citizens.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.
Sincerely,

Zach Sielaff
936 E. Dayton St.
Madison, WI
53703

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Suzanne Josephine Doody, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As a youth hockey coach, I firmly believe that all kids should be allowed to participate in sports. In 15 years of coaching, these kids have been the greatest example to me that they don't care where their teammate comes from, what color their skin is, or how they identify. They are a teammate on and off the ice and that's all they care about.

Most of the kids I coach will never make it onto a college team, let alone participate in the Olympics or professional sports. But I am not here to cultivate an elite athlete. I coach to create good citizens, who know how to work with their teammates, who learn how to deal with losing, and who become coachable in all forms of life.

Teamwork, respect, sportsmanship, collaboration and relationship building; giving kids a place to contribute to the greater good and learn how to be a part of something bigger than themselves. This is what team sports are about. And you should not take that away from trans kids.

Additionally, as an adult hockey player, I have learned so much from my trans teammates. They are all willing to share their knowledge of the game, and are amazing teammates on and off the ice. There is no reason to remove them from the game.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,
Suzanne J. Doody
199 Union Street
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Hello,

My name is Gina Nolan, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

Kids learn a lot of important life lessons in sports: leadership, confidence, self-respect, and what it means to be part of a team. When we tell transgender girls that they can't play girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches. Being a female athlete myself, this is of utmost importance.

It can be hard to understand what it means to be transgender, especially if you've never met a transgender person. And it's common to have questions at first. But we can all agree that transgender kids should be treated with dignity and respect, just like everyone else.

Local schools across the nation are already creating policies that protect transgender youth and ensure a level playing field for all students—and they're working. Banning transgender youth from playing sports undermines those local efforts.

Transgender kids want the opportunity to play sports for the same reason other kids do: to be a part of a team where they feel like they belong. We shouldn't discriminate against kids and ban them from

playing because they're transgender.

Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gina Nolan
Nuestro Mundo Community School, MMSD

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Kids learn a lot of important life lessons in sports. They gain experience in areas such as leadership, confidence, respect and teamwork. Most importantly, they learn what it feels like to belong to a team and feel connected. All kids should have the same opportunity to play sports, no matter their race, religion or gender.

Admittedly, I am still learning about what transgender means. I did not pay much attention to this topic until one of my close childhood friends had a child who is transgender. I learned that, in most cases, it's not easy for the child nor the parents and the statistics surrounding mental health issues for transgender children are alarming. Sports provide a way for transgender kids to feel more of a sense of belonging and help cope with mental health issues they are more likely to be facing.

The debate surrounding transgender youth participating in sports is complicated. However, I believe an all-out ban is overly harsh and represents a lack of ingenuity from policymakers. Such a ban has serious mental outcomes for transgender children who already have the deck stacked against them. Finding middle ground is what policymakers should be striving for, along with coming up with more innovative solutions instead of marginalizing an already marginalized group of people. For these reasons, please do not support the Anti-Transgender Athlete Bill AB195, AB196 and SB322, SB323.

Leigh Baker
Sarissa Drive
Wausau, WI 54401

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Nicholas Welton, my pronouns are he/him/his, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

Anti-LGBTQ lawmakers are waging an unfair attack on transgender athletes. AB196 and AB195 are trying to exclude transgender youth from playing sports. We all want to ensure a level playing field in sports. The truth is, every child is different in different ways—which is why some girls excel at gymnastics, others at volleyball, some at basketball, and others at soccer. The overwhelming majority of transgender youth, like most kids, don't even play at elite levels. They just want to play everyday school sports and participate with their peers. I strongly believe that any youth who want to play sports have the freedom to play; and this MUST include transgender youth. AB196 & AB195 unfairly attack transgender youth who want the same opportunities as any student their age: To join a team, stay healthy, and make friends. All students want to play on a team, exercise and make friends. When we tell transgender girls that they can't participate in girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches.

I understand that can be hard to understand what it means to be transgender, especially if you've never met a transgender person. And it's common to have questions at first. But we can all agree

that transgender kids should be treated with dignity and respect, just like everyone else. I urge you to not let your ignorance on the subject drive your decision making. As a parent, an educator and a community member, I refuse to stand by and see adults making devastating decisions that will have grave effects on the health and well-being of our youth.

Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Nicholas Welton
MMSD teacher
(608) 445-8292

May 26th, 2021

I am a mother of two - a boy and a girl. I see how important sports and how being a part of a team has been for my kids. My kids have gained confidence, learned respect and what it meant to be part of a team.

I believe that EVERY child deserves sports. Transgender children should not be excluded from participating in sports and miss out on the character-building benefits of being on a team. We should set an example for our children and teach them about INCLUSION and about accepting everyone despite our differences.

Please vote against this bill.

Gina McKane
Blazingstar Lane
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Sarah Estrella, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I have been hearing from trans youth about the harm that this proposed bill is causing them and would further cause them should it be passed. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams that best align with their gender. I feel strongly about supporting our trans and non binary youth and helping them grow up to be thriving individuals and your opposition to this bill would support this.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote **no** on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Sarah Estrella
Ninebark Dr.
Fitchburg, WI 53711

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I am deeply troubled by any law that aims to restrict or inhibit in any manner a transgender girl from participating in sports. Sports have been (and continue to be) a fantastic resource for both my daughters. Sports participation and team building help girls develop invaluable leadership and personal skills.

I have witnessed the effect of sports participation on my two teen daughters. They are more self-confident, independent, motivated, assertive, insightful young women thanks to the opportunities sports afford them. The value of sports participation on my daughters cannot be stressed enough. *No one has the right to take this opportunity away from any child at any age.*

As a coach and referee for girls' soccer I have watched many girls find their place on a team and develop their confidence with the help of their peers. For girls in our society, learning what they can accomplish on the soccer field **does** translate to what they can accomplish in life. You cannot deny the value of sports for girls' self-confidence and self-esteem. (Please look at the statistics for girls' participation in sports and their resulting high school and college graduation rates, their careers and CEO status).

Transgender girls must be afforded the same opportunities and rights that my teen daughters have to participate in sports. I am shocked that anyone would even consider they may not participate in girls sports and play on those same teams with my girls.

Janet Rasmussen

Toepfer Avenue, Madison, WI 53711

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Gabrielle Eidt, my pronouns are they, them, theirs, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As an LGBTQ+ teacher in MMSD, I have committed myself to ensuring the belonging and safety of every student in my classroom is respected. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

All students who wish to play on a team, exercise and make friends should be free to do so without barriers. When we tell transgender girls that they can't participate in girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches. They also miss out on a feeling of belonging. This policy would make transgender students have to choose between their comfort, sports and their gender identity. Transgender youth already struggle with senses of belonging and have significantly higher rates of suicide. Sports and extracurriculars can either be a place that validates their identities or denies them.

A long time ago, we as a people decided that discrimination on ANY account is wrong, yet we allow discrimination to exclude our children from something as simple as athletics. If sports are offered to all children. Then they must truly be accessible to all children regardless of their race, sexuality or gender.

Transgender people are humans who also have a need for a sense of safety, belonging and freedom. Protecting and uplifting female sports does not have to exclude transgender girls/women, because transgender girls/women are female too. They cannot invade a space that is already theirs. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gabrielle Eidt

Please Include This Testimony as part of the official bill record for May 26, 2021

My Name is Evelyn Gildrie-Voyles. My Pronouns are she, her, hers. I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and Non Binary youth should be allowed to participate on sports team which best align with their gender. I have worked with children and youth as a theater teacher for over 20 years and I am currently a early childhood educator. As an educator, I must speak out against bills that harm children. And this legislation is harmful to children and young adults. I have worked with trans children both before, during and after they have come out as trans and I have seen how important it is for trans children to be fully accepted by their peers and to be allowed to fully participate in activities of their choosing.

I am the parent of a very avid soccer player and know the benefits of team sports. Trans children should have the same opportunities to learn cooperation, personal discipline, and resilience through sports. Banning them from joining sports teams that best align with their gender will effectively ban them from safely participating in sports.

I want to be clear that these bills harm all children and athletes. First and foremost they harm and demonize Trans children and athletes by preventing them from participating in sports in a way that is true to their identity and by further stigmatizing and isolating them from their peers. In addition these bills, rather than protecting girls and women as they claim, harm girls. These bills will justify the bullying and investigation of any girl or woman athlete who is deemed "too good to be a girl." These bills seek to end a problem that does not exist and will create harm and trauma to children and young adults in the process.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB196, SB322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,
Evelyn Gildrie-Voyles
202 Farley Avenue
Madison, WI 53705

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Greta Landis, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I was a shy kid who struggled in hypercompetitive sports environments growing up, but have discovered a love for team sports as an adult thanks to the Madison Gay Hockey Association and Madison Ultimate Frisbee Association. The revelation that sports leagues can be inclusive, supportive spaces where anyone can play and push themselves to grow has been transformative for me. Sports should be an outlet for fun, learning, and exercise, which is only possible and comfortable if we are allowed to be fully ourselves. As a cis person I want my trans teammates to be able to bring their whole selves to every game. We all are so much more than our hormone levels, and need to treat each other with compassion, not fear, if we want one another to thrive. Trans youth deserve every opportunity.

Thank you for your time. I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Greta Landis
N Brearly St
Madison, WI 53703

Oppose AB195, AB196, SB 322, and SB 323 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Jennifer Herdina, my pronouns are she/her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

Transgender youth athletes are under attack. Anti-LGBTQ lawmakers are unfairly targeting transgender youth who deserve the same sports opportunities as anyone their age. When we tell transgender girls that they can't participate in girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches.

As a nation, we decided long ago that discrimination is wrong and that everyone should have the same opportunities to succeed in life—and that should include transgender youth. Schools across the country know that transgender students, like any student, thrive when they are treated with dignity and respect. School officials shouldn't treat a transgender female student as a girl between 8AM-3PM and then treat her like she's a boy when sports practice starts. It's deeply hurtful to the student and disrupts the school's policy of treating all kids fairly. We can celebrate girls' sports and protect transgender youth from discrimination, making sure that all young people can access the lessons and opportunities that sports afford.

Put an end to this attack by taking supportive action today.

Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jennifer Herdina
Shadow Wood Dr.
Verona, WI 53593

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Jess Kellogg-Kuhn, my pronouns are she/they, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

Kids of all genders who are interested in sports just want to play. The idea that a young trans girl is a threat to a girls sports team is simply untrue. These kids are not the threat; it's the lack of funding and support for these teams.

I was in softball as a kid, and I played because I wanted to play a game with friends. It didn't matter whether those friends were boys or girls; it was a game, and it was about having fun. What message does that send to our children, that we should judge their merits based on their identity instead of their achievements, that we should only allow some of them access to normal kid things like sports?

As a thirtysomething who has recently come out as non-binary, I feel for the young kids who have figured themselves out long before I did. They deserve support and love, and to be able to do anything the other kids do. Splitting trans/non-binary kids from the cisgendered teams just feels cruel and unnecessary. Discrimination has no place in Wisconsin sports.

Trans people have been sharing that a lack of support for trans kids leads to higher rates of depression and suicide, whereas it's proven that when they are encouraged to be themselves and are surrounded by support, they thrive. We want our kids to thrive.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Jess Kellogg-Kuhn
1506 Frisch Road

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Hazel Press, my pronouns are she/her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

This legislation is not about protecting kids, and it will likely do them harm. Sports teach important lessons to kids about teamwork, respect, sportsmanship, collaboration and relationship building; team sports give kids a place to contribute to the greater good and learn how to be a part of something bigger than themselves. It's not fair to take that away from trans kids.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Hazel Press
30 Heritage cir.
Apt 5
Madison, WI 53711

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Janelle Johnson, my pronouns are she/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I think all kids should have the opportunity to play sports bases on their gender (not their assigned sex at birth). Sports is about forging relationships and learning how to be part of a team, and all trans children should have the right to that. By not including them we set them apart and isolate them from their full childhood experience.

As a mother of two trans teens, my kids should have the same opportunity that every other child has.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Janelle Johnson
48th st
Milwaukee Wisconsin 53219

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Silvia.

I am 7 years old. My pronouns are they/them/theirs/elle. I go to school in Madison. The teachers at my school have been flexible and they have trusted me to know who I am. They have helped other kids to understand who I am too. When I go into high school I want to be an athlete. I want to be able to be on whatever team I want, without someone telling me what to do because of what they think my gender is. It's not always easy being trans, but I need to be who I am. Please vote no on AB195, AB196 and SB322 & SB323 . Please include everybody of all genders and trust trans kids.

Silvia
Madison WI

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Ian Lacasse. My pronouns are he/him/his, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams that best align with their gender.

As a health and physical educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on a sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

The ability to play sports growing up provided me an opportunity that all children should have. Through sports, I learned many lifelong lessons: leadership, confidence, self-respect, and what it means to be part of a team. When we tell transgender girls that they can't play girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches. All students who want to play sports should have the freedom to play. That includes transgender youth. AB196 & AB195 unfairly attack transgender youth who want the same opportunities as any student their age: To join a team, stay healthy, and make friends. As a nation, we decided long ago that discrimination is wrong and that everyone should have the same opportunities to succeed in life—and that should include transgender youth.

Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ian Lacasse
Cedar Drive
Oregon, WI 53575

May 26, 2021

Dear Members of the Education Committee,

I am a member of the Mount Horeb Area School District Board of Education, a researcher at the Wisconsin Center for Education Research, UW-Madison, and a mother of three children. My statement does not represent the District, the full Board, or my employer. However, what I have learned in my roles helps inform my opposition to Assembly Bill 196 and Senate Bill 322.

In my work as an education researcher and as a school board member, I am committed to equity, and ensuring that students feel welcome, supported, and included. That each of our students receive what they need to be academically and socially successful. Our transgender youth need our care and our support, not our hate and alienation. As parents and as adults who are leading our youth, I employ you to not heed to national politics and pressure but to thoughtfully oppose Assembly Bill 196 and Senate Bill 322.

The WIAA allows transgender students to participate in sports and outlines a policy for school districts to follow. In a state that embraces local control, no additional state level policies are necessary.

Please embrace policies that allow our students to do more and to be more successful. Please do not support policies that remove opportunities and alienate our students. Oppose Assembly Bill 196 and Senate Bill 322.

Respectfully,

Jessica Arrigoni
S 4th Street
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

May 26th, 2021

AB 195 Summary: This bill is designed to prohibit a male student from participating on an athletic team or in a sport designated for females or women in collegiate level sport.

It is very clear that this bill is aimed at transgender women. The word transgender is not mentioned in this bill- not once. Sex assigned at birth is mentioned three times. The language of this bill erases the existence of transgender people by simply not even mentioning them. However, transgender persons have existed in this world for centuries. They have existed cross culturally. They walk in two worlds of life experience and often, historically, were given high regard in Indigenous cultures.

This is a discriminatory bill. The language used outright negates that a transwoman is a woman by calling out specifically that male students may not play on a women's team. Again, the word transgender is never used. The bill does not take into account that students may be entering college already having been on hormone blockers from a young age, have begun hormone replacement therapy, and may have already sought gender affirming surgery. There is also no deep dive into scientific evidence that suggest transwomen will overpower and take opportunities from cisgender women. The most obvious and glaring sore thumb of this bill being geared toward transwomen is that there is no mention of transmen. At all. What I see here is an age old stereotype. Men are strong. Women are weak. There is no fear of trans men in sport because how could they be a threat? But trans women on the other hand- this bill is just for them.

A list of current policies for trans athletes- elite athletes -exist and are available on <https://www.transathlete.com/policies-by-organization>. Here are a few examples of elite athletics organizations which took the time to create policies for equity and fairness in sport: The Association of Boxing Commissions , CrossFit , [International Association of Athletic Federations \(IAAF\)](#), [International Olympic Committee \(IOC\)](#) , [International Tennis Federation \(ITF\)](#). At this time, currently, there are already colleges that have adapted policies for transgender students to participate in sports. At the collegiate sport level, The [National Collegiate Athletic Association \(NCAA\)](#) , has drafted a policy as well as a handbook, [NCAA Inclusion of Transgender Athletes Handbook](#), which support and give guidelines for the participation of transgender folks in sport.

In summary, University of Wisconsin institutions and technical colleges that operate or sponsor intercollegiate, intramural, or club athletic teams or sport are completely capable of adapting policies around transgender folks participating in collegiate level sport. The NCAA and the International Olympic Committee have standards for reference. My ask here is simple- there are already criteria that cover transgender folks participating in sport. This bill is not about transgender folks participating in sport. This bill is about making the discriminatory statement that transgender people are not people and do not belong. This is reckless, harmful legislation that doesn't need to be put into law.

Jessica Lynn Zitkus

Address: Brentwood Pkwy, Madison, WI 53704

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Courtney Ramirez, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

Anti-LGBTQ lawmakers are waging an unfair attack on transgender athletes. AB196 and AB195 are trying to exclude transgender youth from playing sports. We all want to ensure a level playing field in sports. The truth is, every child is different in different ways—which is why some girls excel at gymnastics; others at volleyball, some at basketball, and others at soccer. The overwhelming majority of transgender youth, like most kids, don't even play at elite levels. They just want to play everyday school sports and participate with their peers. I strongly believe that any youth who want to play sports have the freedom to play; and this MUST include transgender youth. AB196 & AB195 unfairly attack transgender youth who want the same opportunities as any student their age: To join a team, stay healthy, and make friends. All students want to play on a team, exercise and make friends. When we tell transgender girls that they can't participate in girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches.

I understand that can be hard to understand what it means to be transgender, especially if you've never met a transgender person. And it's common to have questions at first. But we can all agree that transgender kids should be treated with dignity and respect, just like everyone else. I urge you to not let your ignorance on the subject drive your decision making. As a parent, an educator and a community member, I refuse to stand by and see adults making devastating decisions that will have grave effects on the health and well-being of our youth.

Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Courtney Ramirez
MMSD teacher and parent
(608) 347-0875

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I'm writing to urge lawmakers to oppose AB195 & AB196. All children should be treated fairly and allowed to participate in athletics. No one should be excluded because of their gender identity. Please oppose this bill.

Jessica Viesselmann
Middleton, WI 53562

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the member of the Assembly Committee On Colleges and Universities; Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education, Representative Witke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rosar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Our names are David and Debbie Walton, our pronouns are he/him/his and she/her/hers respectively, and we are writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

We strongly believe that legislation such as this would be harmful to children. Although all who take part hope to be victorious, we believe that the most important benefits received from participation in youth and interscholastic athletics are the satisfaction the children derive from the experience of developing and honing their skills in their chosen sport, and the great joys found in cooperating and working together with their teammates toward a common goal. We would offer that these bills would stifle these opportunities for many, many youth while "protecting" very few if any cis athletes from unfair competition as the bills' supporters would insist.

We are the parents of a nonbinary, transgender offspring, and as such have some experience with the impediments our society places in their path. We also have personally experienced the benefits available from participation in youth and interscholastic athletics, many of which we have carried forward to

this day. The effects of passage of these bills would likely be to greatly impede the physical and emotional development, and the ability to enjoy life, for many of our youth, while not in any likelihood actually benefiting anyone. Please do not enact them.

Sincerely,

David Walton
Debbie Walton
Road J, Unit 1
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I'm writing in opposition of AB195 and 196.

I was captain of my college rugby team. Playing rugby helped me through a difficult coming out period and saved me from so many moments of feeling lost. My team meant that I always had a coach and a group of peers supporting me, especially when I became uncertain if my family would anymore.

As a gay woman, I'm so grateful for this support. I'm horrified that vulnerable transgender youth would be denied this opportunity. I have loved ones whose only friends were teammates and it's how they survived bullying and severe mental health issues as teenagers.

Also, I have two cisgender children, a little girl and boy. One of my kids is incredibly competitive and whether or not they win is a huge deal to them. I have absolutely no problem with them playing with transgender children on their sports team. I figure the more kids in sports for my kids to play with and against, the better off they will be.

Please do not let this hateful and dangerous legislation pass. It's life and death for some of our most precious children and teens.

-Joanne

Joanne Mani
Birch Ave,
Madison WI 53711

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I am submitting my written testimony against WI ABs 195 & 196 and SBs 322 & 323.

I object to these bills on two main points:

- Although these bills are ostensibly written to protect women's sports, in reality these bills will discriminate against transgender youth.
- The "problem" these bills address simply does not exist. Our legislature would be better served working on solutions to problems that actually affect Wisconsinites.

The argument in favor of these bills is based primarily on the fact that transgender women will have some "unfair" advantage if they participate in women's sports based on higher levels of testosterone. This is simply not evidence based:

- The Olympics have had policies allowing transgender athletes to compete on teams that match their gender identity since 2004. In the 15 years since these policies were enacted, there has been no evidence the unfair advantage that these bills pretend to protect against.
- Cisgendered women with polycystic ovarian syndrome also have higher levels of testosterone. We do not have any policies prohibiting them from playing women's sports.
- Transgender children suffer from higher rates of homelessness, poverty, anxiety, depression, and bullying. These laws only serve to needlessly discriminate against transgender youth. Participation on sports teams that match their gender identity is one way to provide support for this population. All athletes, both cis and trans gender, can only benefit from an increased diversity on their sports teams.
- Facts cited from <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/trans-girls-belong-on-girls-sports-teams/>

Additionally, as a concerned Wisconsinite, I am question the very notion that this subject should even take up legislative time. Our legislature was the least active legislature in the United States throughout the COVID pandemic. Our legislature should be working on COVID relief bills. While the legislature cannot cite even one case where transgender athletes caused harm by

participating on sports team that match their gender identity, in Wisconsin there have been 608,432 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 6,989 deaths (Source: dhs.wisconsin.gov). I would implore the legislature to vote against these discriminatory bills that address a nonexistent problem. I would also implore the legislature to stay focused on addressing problems that actually affect Wisconsinites.

Thank you.
Charles McKain
Madison, WI

My name is Natalie Lesnjak and I live at 451 Toepfer Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin. I am 14 years old and in 8th grade.

I don't understand this bill. What would transgender girls do if they want to play sports? Would you force them into playing on a boy's team or would you deny them access to sports all together? Denying someone access to sports is wrong and not fair to them. Forcing transgender girls to play on a boy's team is wrong and singles them out and makes them feel like they do not belong. And they don't belong because they are not boys.

I play sports and I am totally fine with transgender girls playing sports with me. I would do whatever I could to make sure a transgender girl felt like she belonged on my team. Transgender girls belong in our society and they should have the same rights that I have.

Natalie Lesnjak

09/24/21

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Hello, my name is Megan Larson. I am the mother of 6 kids, 4 girls and 2 boys. My 7 year old son's best friend is a transgender boy. He was my son's best friend before transition, and his best friend after. When I ask him about this, he says it doesn't matter if he is a boy or girl, just that he is his best friend. If we couldn't all be more like children. One of the things that bonds them most is their love of sports. Sports are good for self esteem(which is hard enough to encourage in a cis gendered child), strong friendships (also hard enough for the average child), body positivity, good sportsmanship, drive, work ethic, among many other positive things. What sports should not encourage is non-inclusivity, transphobia, and lack of opportunities for transgender people to participate in something that could not only help them achieve a feeling of belonging or normalacy, but possibly even save their life. Transgender individuals are vastly more likely to take their own life than cis gendered individuals when not given the support of family, friends, and the community. Sports is an example of that community. To take that opportunity away would be dangerous and certainly not humane.

My children are in sports to learn life skills, make friends, and become good humans not to become professional athletes. They do not play sports to get scholarships. Again, they play to give them the skills to help them become good humans. Not allowing transgender athletes to participate takes away what could be a great friend, great teacher, and great lesson on how to be a kind and accepting member of society. We are all born with varying levels of athleticism trans or cis gendered. Tall or short, slow or fast. One would never ban a cis gendered child from the sport of their choosing just because they are more muscular or of greater height. Why should this be an option just because someone's gender didn't match their body at birth. My children will not participate in a sport, club or group who would not be inclusive of everyone interested in joining.

Many studies have shown that there isn't evidence of transgender player receiving more playing time or taking away from cis gendered players sports careers. Instead of focusing on this non

issue, we should instead focus on the many other things that plague sports, and the world in general. These very brave, special people, are someone's son or daughter, best friend, grandchild, neighbor, and beloved teammate. Please hear the voices of the many many people who would be devastated if the rights, given to everyone else, were taken away from them. Please withdraw bills AB 195 and AB 196.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to a concerned mother, citizen, and human being.

Sincerely,

Megan Larson
Parkview dr.
Oconomowoc wi 53066

MICHAEL J. EDMONDS
5509 Russett Road
Madison, Wisconsin 53711
m.edmonds@sbcglobal.net
608.843.0292

May 26, 2021

Members, Assembly Committee on Education
Members, Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities
Members, Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families
Wisconsin State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Re: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323

Dear Representatives and Senators:

I urge you to vote against these bills.

I was a skinny kid. Geeky, before geeky was a word. Too small for football. Couldn't hit a curve ball. On ice, about as fast as a Zamboni. But I desperately wanted to be part of a team. So I did the only thing I could – I became a long distance runner.

Like a lot of high school kids, I was trying to figure out who I was. Being a member of the cross-country team allowed me to be someone - a runner, part of a team - while I figured out who I was. It allowed me to be part of a group of people who had my back, who accepted me despite my geekiness.

Kids learn a lot of important life lessons in sports, including leadership, confidence, self-respect, and what it means to be part of a team. When we tell transgender girls that they cannot play girls' sports or transgender boys that they cannot play boys' sports, we deny them this important childhood experience and all the lessons sports teach. This is unfair.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Edmonds

Senator Jacque (Chair)

Senator Ballweg (Vice-Chair)

Committee on Human Services, Children and Families

Amy Lyle

Mt. Horeb, WI

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Opposition to SB 322

Being a student athlete can be an incredible part of a young person's life and teaches many important skills including lessons on leadership, integrity, hard work, how to win, and how to lose. For me, the most important part of being on my high school volleyball team for four years was that I felt that I belonged. That I was an important part of my school community and I had a part to play in it.

I'm coming to you today as the parent of a non-binary child, asking you not to take away any child's opportunity to have those same lessons and that critical sense of belonging available in school sports. I'm asking you to treat my child and all trans and non-binary children as you would any other children in the State of Wisconsin.

There are trans students playing sports in Wisconsin schools right now who are thriving and who deserve to continue to be able play alongside their teammates, not be singled out and placed on the "other" team which would ostensibly be the "trans" team, further stigmatizing and marginalizing an already at risk group of children.

When we know that LGBTQ+ youth who have at least one supportive adult in their life are 40% less likely to attempt suicide, why wouldn't we want that supportive adult to be the girls' soccer coach or the girls' volleyball coach?

We need to be doing everything we can to support trans and non-binary youth in Wisconsin and preserving access to sports along with their same-gender peers just makes sense. Bills like SB 322 take decision-making power away local school districts, schools, and coaches—and most importantly, risk real, lasting harm to youth in the process. Harm to all girls, including trans girls, all of whom could be asked to provide proof of their gender, if questioned. And for what? Trans girls are not dominating girls sports in this state. This is a false narrative and seems to be an incredibly harmful solution looking for a problem that simply doesn't exist.

Members of the committee - I am asking you, as a parent, to please vote against SB 322 and just - let them play. Thank you.

Subject Line: Oppose AB195, AB196, SB 322, and SB 323 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Cara Masuga, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

- All students who want to play sports, should have the freedom to play. That includes transgender youth.
- AB196 & AB195 unfairly attack transgender youth who want the same opportunities as any student their age: To join a team, stay healthy, and make friends.
- Transgender youth athletes are under attack. Anti-LGBTQ lawmakers are unfairly targeting transgender youth who deserve the same sports opportunities as anyone their age. Put an end to this attack by taking supportive action today.
- Three reasons why students, including transgender students, love to play sports: Teamwork, Sportsmanship, and Leadership. These are all important lessons which kids learn in sports. We want all kinds to be able to have these opportunities

- Anti-LGBTQ lawmakers are waging an unfair attack on transgender athletes. AB196 and AB195 are trying to exclude transgender youth from playing sports.
- All students want to play on a team, exercise and make friends. When we tell transgender girls that they can't participate in girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches.
- As a nation, we decided long ago that discrimination is wrong and that everyone should have the same opportunities to succeed in life—and that should include transgender youth.
- Schools across the country know that transgender students, like any student, thrive when they are treated with dignity and respect. School officials shouldn't treat a transgender female student as a girl between 8AM-3PM and then treat her like she's a boy when sports practice starts. It's deeply hurtful to the student and disrupts the school's policy of treating all kids fairly.
- We can celebrate girls' sports and protect transgender youth from discrimination, making sure that all young people can access the lessons and opportunities that sports afford.
- Let's remember what this is really about: whether LGBTQ people should be treated fairly across all areas of life—or whether they can be unfairly kicked out of a restaurant, denied an apartment, or denied the health care they need, just because of who they are.
- There's a reason those who are trying to ban transgender kids from playing sports keep repeating the same two or three examples over and over again. That's because, in a country of more than 300 million people, these are the only examples they have of transgender girls who have won these kinds of titles. The fact is, 99.9% of kids play sports without ever competing at any kind of elite level. And the overwhelming majority of transgender youth, like most kids, just want to play and participate in everyday school sports with their peers.
- We all want to ensure a level playing field in sports. The truth is, every child is different in different ways—which is why some girls excel at gymnastics, others at volleyball, some at basketball, and others at soccer. The overwhelming majority of transgender youth, like most kids, don't even play at elite levels. They just want to play everyday school sports and participate with their peers.

Kids learn a lot of important life lessons in sports: leadership, confidence, self-respect, and what it means to be part of a team. When we tell transgender girls that they can't play girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches.

It can be hard to understand what it means to be transgender, especially if you've never met a transgender person. And it's common to have questions at first. But we can all agree that transgender kids should be treated with dignity and respect, just like everyone else.

Local schools across the nation are already creating policies that protect transgender youth and ensure a level playing field for all students—and they're working. Banning transgender youth from playing sports undermines those local efforts.

Transgender kids want the opportunity to play sports for the same reason other kids do: to be a part of a team where they feel like they belong. We shouldn't discriminate against kids and ban them from playing because they're transgender.

Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cara Masuga
5th Grade Teacher at MMSD
Fremont Ave, Madison WI 53704

Testimony of Susan Fox,
Monona Grove School Board
susan.fox@mgschools.net

Re: AB 196 (and SB 322, AB 195 and SB 323)

May 26, 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I speak as a member of and on behalf of the Monona Grove School Board. Just last week, our Board unanimously passed a resolution in opposition to this proposed legislation (attached).

It's important to note this resolution doesn't announce a change in policy or practice, but rather affirms existing policy and practice.

I think it can be hard to understand what it means to be transgender, particularly if you don't personally know any transgender individuals. Not all transgender students choose to participate in school sports, but those who do, do so for the same reasons as other kids – for the love of the game, for the friendships developed and maintained, to be part of a team, and to represent their school. Like all other students, they are entitled to and deserve the opportunity to experience the benefits of participation on school athletic teams – learning the value of teamwork, developing confidence, self-esteem, and leadership skills. School sports and other extra-curricular activities are, after all, an important part of the total educational experience.

A core value is to create a welcoming, safe, inclusive environment for all students. We have longstanding nondiscrimination policies that support our commitment to equitable opportunities, and this proposed legislation undermines our efforts.

It's important to note that a blanket ban on transgender females' participation on female teams is not supported by science. Different sports require different talents and competencies, and kids come to us in varying shapes and sizes. A star volleyball player may not be the strongest track or cross country runner. Not all kids' parents can afford to give their kids the advantage of early coaching in club sports before they reach middle and high school. School sports can at least offer access, even if the playing field is not always the equal one we might desire.

It simply is not the case that transgender athletes are winning all athletic contests in which they participate. The NCAA and the Canadian equivalent – U Sports – as well as the International Olympic Committee and the WIAA all allow transgender athletes to compete on teams that match their gender identities. The American Academy of Pediatrics as quoted in a March *Chicago Tribune* article, concluded a statement with this: "Politics has no place here. Transgender children, like all children, just want to belong. We will fight state by state, in the courts, and on the national stage to make sure they know they do."

At best, this proposed legislation seems to be the proverbial solution in search of a problem. At worst, it feels like an attack on some of our most vulnerable youth, who already are more likely to experience rejection, bullying, depression, anxiety, self-harming and even suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

Even any perceived advantage pales in comparison to our responsibility to provide a safe, uplifting environment for all students. **The impact of transgender participation in athletics is inconsequential for the vast majority of students, but it is very impactful to trans kids.** We now know more about genetics and gender identity, and when we know more, we can do more and do better. In fact, we have an obligation to do better. As legislators, so do you.



"Promoting Excellence for Global Opportunities"
MONONA GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TRANSGENDER, NONBINARY, AND ALL
LGBTQ+ STUDENTS

WHEREAS, the Monona Grove School District is committed to a learning environment that is physically, socially and emotionally safe for all students; and,

WHEREAS, the Monona Grove School District is committed to cultivating a climate in all our schools that is welcoming, safe, and inclusive for all students; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education and District are committed to honoring, valuing, and affirming our transgender, nonbinary, and all LGBTQ+ students, staff, and families through our policies, practices, and curriculum; and,

WHEREAS, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex; and,

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2020 the U.S. Supreme Court held that discrimination on the basis of an individual's status as gay or transgender constitutes sex discrimination within the meaning of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and,

WHEREAS, President Joe Biden issued an Executive Order on January 20, 2021 affirming that discrimination against transgender individuals is discrimination on the basis of sex and that, "Children should be able to learn without worrying about whether they will be denied access to the restroom, the locker room, or school sports;" and,

WHEREAS, in 1985, the Wisconsin Legislature enacted section 118.13, Wis. Stats., which prohibits discrimination in public schools on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) affirm that denying a student the opportunity to participate on a sports team consistent with their gender identity is likely prohibited sex discrimination; and,

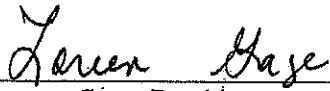
WHEREAS, the WIAA supports transgender students participation in athletics based on their gender identity/expression, not the sex they were assigned at birth;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Monona Grove School District Board of Education affirms, supports, and values the gender identities and gender expressions of all our students and will continue to further efforts in our schools to create a welcoming, safe, and inclusive learning environment for our transgender, nonbinary, and all LGBTQ+ students; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Monona Grove School District Board of Education supports human rights and equitable educational opportunities and practices for all LGBTQ+ students; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Monona Grove School District Board of Education rejects any legislation or action that dehumanizes, marginalizes, or violates the rights of transgender, nonbinary, and all LGBTQ+ students.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this resolution was adopted by the Board of Education of the Monona Grove School District on a 7-0 vote on the 12th day of May 2021.


Loreen Gage, President


Susan Manning, Clerk

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Maureen, my pronouns are she and her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate in sports teams that **best align with their gender**.

I feel strongly about trans inclusion in sports. We need to allow all children to feel safe with how they identify and, equally valued and served.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,
Maureen Cassidy
Winnebago Street
Madison WI 53704

May 26, 2021

**Testimony of ACLU of Wisconsin
Opposed to Assembly Bill 196
Assembly Committee on Education**



Chair Theisfeldt and the members of the committee,

Good Morning. Please include this testimony as a part of the official record. My name is Hope Owens-Wilson and I am the Youth Organizer for the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin. The American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin is a non-partisan, non-profit organization working to protect and advance the civil liberties and civil rights of all Wisconsinites. We are opposed to Assembly Bill 196, which would exclude transgender students from participating in sports teams consistent with their identified gender. This bill is premised on transphobia and misconceptions about transgender athletes, and should not move out of this committee.

Transgender students participate in sports for the same reasons that other young people do: to challenge themselves, improve their fitness, and be part of a team. Excluding trans students from participating in sports teams consistent with their authentic gender identity is unfair and discriminatory and is on par with the logic used to justify the antiquated notions of "separate but equal." A 2016 Clear Voice Research survey, with a Confidence Index of greater than 95, found 85.4% of people supported equal rights and protections for transgender individuals. The same survey found 86% supported laws against bullying trans kids in schools. Most recently, in March 2021, a survey done by Hart Research on behalf of the Human Rights Commission, revealed 73% of people surveyed agreed with the statement, "sports are important in young people's lives. Young transgender people should be allowed opportunities to participate in a way that is safe and comfortable for them." Majorities of Democrats (89%), Independents (79%), and Republicans (56%) agree with this statement. It is also worth noting that agreement among voters who have children under age 18 is even higher than 73% with 80% agreeing, including 48% who strongly agree. In April 2021, an NPR/PBS/Marist poll indicated 67% of people surveyed supported trans kids playing sports associated with their gender identity.

The International Olympics Committee has allowed trans athletes to compete for almost two decades and the NCAA has done so for nearly a decade even providing guidance for their participation and criticism about states passing these laws that conflict with their guidance. Athletic success is based on many disparate factors that vary from sport to sport, and being transgender does not give girls who are trans an inherent advantage over girls who are not. As a result, this bill is premised on incorrect, biased, and discriminatory myths about trans people that have no place in our state's laws.

The intent of these bills is not to protect students in sports but to alienate trans students and discriminate against them based on their identity. Our lawmakers should do everything they can to support trans people and ensure that they have access to the same opportunities that everyone else

does. Instead, it is shameful that some are seeking to alienate them from other students by introducing a bill such as this one. To quote Chief Justice Warren in his majority opinion for *Brown v. Board of Education*, "[t]o separate them from others of similar age and qualifications solely because of their race generates a feeling of inferiority as to their status in the community that may affect their hearts and minds in a way unlikely to ever be undone." Here, race is not the issue but gender identity is. Still, the point stands, separating children from their peers on arbitrary notions such as these can have long-lasting damaging effects.

This is a bill that tries to solve a problem where none exists. We urge you to not move forward on Assembly Bill 196.

Representative Thiesfeldt (Chair)
Representative Kitchens (Vice-Chair)
Committee on Education

Ashley Green
Mt. Horeb, WI
Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Opposition to AB 196

Like many of you here and outside this chamber, I identify as a straight, cisgender person. By virtue of belonging to that group, I'm part of a citizen majority who are well protected and deeply privileged. I can rest soundly at night knowing that I will never be subject to legislation that excludes me from many of those privileges that we take for granted.

I am, however, father to a child who identifies as gender non-binary and whose own privileges, sadly, I can no longer take for granted. We are friends to other families in our small community of Mount Horeb who have transgender children, some of whom play sports, others who do not. Whether they do or do not does not matter: what is important is that transgender and non-binary children continue to be included and have access to school sports in a manner that fully affirms their gender identity.

The issue that this bill purports to correct is not an issue in Mount Horeb, nor is it elsewhere in Wisconsin. Any potential concerns about fairness in sports can easily be adjudicated by local school boards on a case by case basis. Assembly Bill 196 takes control of decision making power from local communities where it belongs.

While this bill solves no problem in Mount Horeb, it creates harm to innocent children in our community. With an already far higher than average incidence of depression, self-harm, and suicide, every act or word that calls into question whether trans-boys are really boys or trans-girls are really girls assails the basic human dignity of these children and further wounds their mental health well-being. The simple joy of playing a team sport with their peers, a pat on the back by a proud coach, the feeling of belonging with others to an experience that is uniquely human - these are real life-lines for trans and non-binary children who love and suffer just as you and I.

I ask that you please vote against Assembly Bill 196.

Thank you,
Ashley Green

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Tassa Boydston, my pronouns are she/her, and I am here to oppose Assembly Bills 195 and 196 and Senate Bills 322 and 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on the sports teams which best align with their gender.

I've come today to talk to you as a player, as a coach, and as a mom. I began playing volleyball at the age of 9 and it was an immediate gift to me. I was new at my school, my parents were divorcing, I was one of the smallest girls in my class, and I wasn't good at any other sport. I played every year, earning spots on each team for which I tried out. I played for my middle school, I earned three varsity letters in volleyball from my high school, and I have been playing recreationally ever since (for the past 32 years).

At the end of high school, I began coaching - I wanted to share my love and enthusiasm for the game with girls who were just starting to play. Eventually, I became a USA Volleyball IMPACT certified coach and coached at the elite club level. At one point, I was coaching elementary and middle school girls nearly year-round. Although I loved coaching, playing, and working with my girls, the aspect of my involvement that was most rewarding was helping my girls learn important life lessons through volleyball. When I coached for several years at my local community center, I had girls on my teams from different parts of the city, from neighboring towns, from vastly different economic and cultural backgrounds and with big, unique personalities. I've coached girls who were shy, meek, loud, goofy, focused, competitive, patient, funny, emotional, angry, and everything in-between (it is not a gig for the faint of heart). Together my girls learned about teamwork, about bringing your teammate up when she feels down, about loyalty and hard work, how to lose graciously, and how to be humble in victory. Despite their differences, my girls came back to play for me year after year. Many went on to play for their high school teams and when they faced each other in competition, they always found each other after the game for a hug or a high five. They became a second family and continue to support each other today (as college sophomores and juniors dispersed across the country).

Because most girls start playing volleyball sometime between 4th and 6th grade, it is a sport that tends to be more accessible for many girls. Your parents didn't need to put you on the team in kindergarten in order to play competitively in middle school (unlike so many other sports today). Girls who previously never saw themselves as sporty or athletic find a newfound appreciation for their own capabilities and strength, at a time when they feel most self-conscious about their bodies.

All kids deserve the opportunity to play for their schools on teams that support and affirm them, to play with their friends, to learn the important life lessons many of us have had the opportunity to learn through sports.

We all want to ensure a level playing field when it comes to youth sports. The truth is, every child is different in different ways—which is why not all athletes excel in all sports. Success is really about practice, self-discipline, access to good coaches and facilities, and even money to pay for outside training. The overwhelming majority of transgender youth, like most kids, don't even play at elite levels. They just want to play everyday school sports and participate with their peers.

The proposed bills make at least three incorrect assumptions:

- 1) That it is widely known which kids are transgender. Many transgender children have parents and physicians who affirm their identities and it may not be common knowledge that a child is trans. One cannot determine if a child is trans simply by looking at them.
- 2) That trans girls are larger and stronger than cis girls. The bodies of trans girls, just like the bodies of all children vary greatly from family to family and even from year to year. It is a fallacy to assume that all trans girls are bigger and stronger than their cis gender peers.
- 3) Stronger and larger girls are better players. Practice, skill, and technique go much further in determining how good a player is. Just because an athlete may be bigger or stronger, it does not mean they are better players or that they have a competitive edge.

The proposed bills seek to solve non-existent problems. The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) already has existing policies to provide equity, physical safety, and competitive equity. WIAA guidelines both provide opportunities to all of our children while also protecting the medical privacy of transgender athletes and the safety of cis gender athletes.

Finally, I ask you to listen to the wisdom of my girls. In our last year together, I asked them "Should we play to win every game, or should we make sure everyone gets an opportunity to play, win or lose?" I made them vote with their eyes closed, so they wouldn't influence each other and one by one, every single hand went up to unanimously vote that "everybody plays." As it turns out, you can learn life lessons through coaching too.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on Assembly Bills 195 and 196 and Senate Bills 322 and 323.

Sincerely,

Tassa Boydston
545 Fargo Trail
Middleton, WI 53562

James McKenzie

Cottage Grove, WI

26th May 2021

Committee Members

Wisconsin State Assembly Education Committee

Wisconsin State Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee

Wisconsin State Senate Committee on Human Services, Children, and Families

Re: Assembly Bills 195, 196 and Senate Bills 322, 323

Dear Committee Members,

Please let me begin by talking about a tradition we have in America: When problems arise, we wait for things to get worse and worse until they can't be ignored any longer, and *then* we pass legislation to try and improve the situation.

Yet here we have this issue of transgender girls playing on girls sports teams with their friends, and somehow this requires us to immediately pass legislation that is completely precautionary in nature, and based on theoretical problems that *might* present themselves in the future.

The transgender population is very small and there just aren't many historical cases of people losing out on important opportunities in their life due to a transgender girl out-competing them.

We have this debate going on over theoreticals, and the obvious thing to do here is to table the legislation until some future where we actually live in a world where there are a whole bunch of cases of injustices against cisgender athletes, and where they've been demanding justice for years.

That's when you consider legislation like this, not right now.

Please consider for a moment what the legislation actually achieves right now, in this current context of 2021. It's clear that it is meant to soothe the emotions of some of your constituents who are feeling upset by an idea; simply the idea of transgender girls playing on girls teams. I think they can tolerate the discomfort for a while longer while we see if anything horrible really happens or not over the next 10 or 15 years.

Let's see if we really start seeing a clear trend of transgender girls in elementary schools systematically out-competing everyone else in their sports.

Let's see if we really start seeing a clear trend of cisgender boys pretending to be transgender girls in bad faith efforts to compete on girls teams. Let's see if these things come to pass before we pass laws that assume that they will.

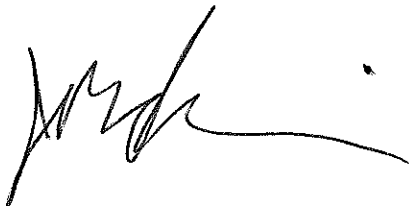
Furthermore, let's pretend for a moment we do see this kind of fraud happening in the future. The answer isn't to kick all the transgender girls off the team. We can be more intelligent than that. We can be more nuanced than that. If this sort of fraud really becomes a problem, then perhaps we require letters from medical professionals and require the student to have been socially transitioned for some period before joining girls teams. That would be an interesting response to an actualized problem. By contrast, the bills being considered presently are targeting a theoretical problem in an intellectually lazy manner.

I sense fear that if these bills are not passed right now then we're dooming our cisgender girls to some awful fate where it becomes common for opportunistic boys to cynically and dishonestly claim transgender status in an attempt to gain an athletic advantage.

Is it happening right now? No? Why do we need this legislation? I don't want to have to move my healthy, stable, high-earning, property-owning family of 5 out of Wisconsin just so that a minority of your constituents can sleep better at night knowing that my 3rd grade daughter's testosterone level won't be posing a threat to Wisconsin's 'real' girls.

Please do not pass these bills. Please live up to your principles of limited government and local control, and let my school district maintain its own policies on this matter. There is no emergency here requiring you to step in and save the day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James McKenzie', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James McKenzie

Committee on Education

Kaitlin Hardin
Madison Metropolitan School District
Contact Number: (262)-880-3038

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Subject: Oppose AB195 and AB196 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

As a social worker and educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply troubled by the decisions our legislators have made to introduce a bill that would limit our transgender students' involvement in athletics. Our job is to ensure equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning environments, not just in the classroom, but in our communities as well. It is our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all of our students. I strongly oppose AB196, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on sports teams that align with their gender identity.

All students who want to play sports, should have the freedom to play. That includes youth who identify as transgender. AB196 & AB195 unfairly attack transgender youth who want the same opportunities as any student their age: To join a team, stay healthy, and make friends. Sports not only provide students with a sense of community and friendship, they also teach students about teamwork, sportsmanship, and leadership; life skills that allow them to become responsible adults. If this legislation is passed, we are telling our trans youth that their identity doesn't matter and we are saying that discrimination is okay. We should be celebrating differences rather than squandering opportunities for our students.

Transgender kids deserve the same opportunities as everyone else. They are our students, neighbors, and family members. They are no different than any other child. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB196. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kaitlin Hardin
School Social Worker
Madison Metropolitan School District
3814 Atwood Ave. Madison, WI 53714

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Sagan Pizzingrilli, my pronouns are she/hers, and I am writing to adamantly oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I am a middle school teacher in the Madison schools, a GSA advisor, and a varsity soccer coach. I spend my entire days around youth in Madison who care about sports, and who care about the rights on trans and non-binary youth. When I became a teacher and when I became a coach, my priority was and still is to keep kids safe, to help them grow, and to provide them with opportunities to be their best, authentic selves. I am here today because I know that these bills, if passed through, will absolutely get in the way of our trans and non binary

youths' safety, and will negatively impact their ability to grow and be their best, authentic selves.

I grew up in Madison playing on all sorts of sports teams. I was a captain for three sports my senior year of high school. I went on to play college soccer. And, I have been coaching varsity soccer in Madison for boys and girls for the past 8 years. I have embedded myself in sport so heavily because I believe it can be one of the most powerful tools for youth. Every day we see players grow their leadership skills. We see them take healthy risks, grow decision making skills, be accountable to and responsible for a team and their teammates. We see players learn to understand their bodies better. We see them learn how to grow through the hard emotions—and how to get back up and try again after they fail. Most importantly, we see youth express complete joy and satisfaction—building friendships and reaching their goals. These are the skills we all know will carry them throughout their entire lives. It will help them become good community members. Politicians. Teachers. Doctors. Whatever they want to do. Trans and non-binary youth should not be excluded from these experiences or these opportunities. They deserve to be with their peers, contributing to these communities, and having opportunities to thrive in the best environment possible. A space where they are encouraged. Supported. Welcome. And safe. Where their voices are heard. Something as core to them as their gender identity should not be questioned or used against them.

I have heard title 9 be used as a reason that trans and non-binary youth should be excluded from certain teams. If the writers and supporters of these bills today want to honor title 9, and advocate for girls and womens sports, let's start with money. Let's actually fund women's and girls sports. Let's pay for equipment. Lets fund good coaches. Let's pass budgets within our schools that fully fund our sports. Let's not just talk about valuing girls sports--let's actually show our youth that we care about them. These bills today are not about supporting girls in sport. They are not about safety. And they are not about care. They are not about equality, as is the goal of title 9. These bills today are about exclusion. About keeping people out of their own community. About ripping away opportunities.

I have coached many different players over the years. I have coached cisgender girls who are 6 feet tall and 190 pounds at age 17. I have coached cisgender boys who are 5 foot 3 and 140 pounds at age 17. They have both been safe. The players around them have been safe. I have not policed or critiqued their bodies. No one did. So why should our trans and nonbinary youth have to feel questioned, critiqued, and excluded? I have chosen to celebrate what each players' body brings to the success of the team. I have coached trans and nonbinary youth, alongside their friends. They have been vital parts of our teams and our team communities. Their teammates and peers valued them and their presence and fought for their trans and non binary teammates' rights to be there. Our

trans and nonbinary youth, participating in the sport of their gender, is not unsafe for them, or their teammates.

Last night I coached a girls varsity soccer game. All season we have noticed that our players seem a bit more down than in years past. A little bit distant. They are managing higher levels of anxiety. They are questioning their abilities. Last night our team came out and played an exciting game of soccer. A game where the fans were yelling, there were constant cheers. And there were big, big, celebrations. I saw the biggest smiles I've seen in a year. I saw hugs, and laughing, and authentic joy. I saw pride. I saw young adults who were starting to remember who they are and what they are capable of after a year of unknowns. These moments are why we play youth sports. If you care about youth sports, you know that these are the moments we hope to create. Trans and non binary youth should be able to play sports, and have the joy that comes from it. They should be able to play on the team with the gender with which they identify. They should be able to cheer, and celebrate, in an environment where they feel safe. We should support our trans and nonbinary youth as they weave themselves into the fabric of our school communities through sport. Do you really believe that this should be taken away from them? I definitely do not. If you care about our youth...and I mean ALL of our youth... I urge you to vote no on AB 196, as well as AB195, SB322, and SB 323.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Sagan Pizzingrilli

2037 Helena St. Madison, WI 53704

Representative Thiesfeldt (Chair)
Representative Kitchens (Vice-Chair)
Committee on Education

Amy Lyle
Mt. Horeb, WI

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Opposition to AB 196

Being a student athlete can be an incredible part of a young person's life and teaches many important skills including lessons on leadership, integrity, hard work, how to win, and how to lose. For me, the most important part of being on my high school volleyball team for four years was that I felt that I belonged. That I was an important part of my school community and I had a part to play in it.

I'm coming to you today as the parent of a non-binary child, asking you not to take away any child's opportunity to have those same lessons and that critical sense of belonging available in school sports. I'm asking you to treat my child and all trans and non-binary children as you would any other children in the State of Wisconsin.

There are trans students playing sports in Wisconsin schools right now who are thriving and who deserve to continue to be able play alongside their teammates, not be singled out and placed on the "other" team which would ostensibly be the "trans" team, further stigmatizing and marginalizing an already at risk group of children.

When we know that LGBTQ+ youth who have at least one supportive adult in their life are 40% less likely to attempt suicide, why wouldn't we want that supportive adult to be the girls' soccer coach or the girls' volleyball coach?

We need to be doing everything we can to support trans and non-binary youth in Wisconsin and preserving access to sports along with their same-gender peers just makes sense. Bills like AB 196 take decision-making power away local school districts, schools, and coaches—and most importantly, risk real, lasting harm to youth in the process. Harm to all girls, including trans girls, all of whom could be asked to provide proof of their gender, if questioned. And for what? Trans girls are not dominating girls sports in this state. This is a false narrative and seems to be an incredibly harmful solution looking for a problem that simply doesn't exist.

Members of the committee - I am asking you, as a parent, to please vote against AB 196 and just - let them play. Thank you.

Written Testimony of John Greene In Opposition to
AB 195, AB 196, SB 322 and SB 323

May 26, 2021

Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities
Assembly Committee on Education
Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I am a resident of Madison, Wisconsin, and I write to oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

One thing probably all can agree upon is that participation in sports can be immensely valuable in supporting physical and mental health, and provides important social benefits. To deprive children and young people of this opportunity should require an overwhelming, compelling reason. I see none that would justify this legislation.

When I first heard of these bills, I assumed they were part of the viral, national campaign to convince people that transgender female athletes were going to take over competitive women's sports. Then I learned that neither the NCAA nor the Olympics bars transgender athletes. If the highest levels of competition can allow transgender athletes, why can't our schools find a way?

Moreover, the bills are clearly not targeted at unfair competition in competitive sports. They would cover low-level, recreational, non-tryout leagues, including intramural and club sports. So if a middle school has an after-school, intramural girls basketball or volleyball league—just for fun, fitness and social engagement—*by law* a transgender girl is barred from participating.

At this level, the law is not about fair competition in any meaningful sense; it is just plain cruel, mean and discriminatory. I urge you to try to put yourself in the position of the child that simply wants to play recreational sports with their friends, but who is a legal outcast under this proposed legislation. How much damage are we willing to inflict upon children just because of who they are?

The same is true at the university level. Are we actually going to legally prohibit an 18-year-old freshman student who simply wants to play recreational sports with their dorm intramural team? Why not take it a step further and ban college students who played high school sports from playing on intramural teams in college, since it is "not fair" to the student new to a sport to compete against someone highly skilled?

Anyone experienced with youth sports knows that there are always children with natural advantages that could be deemed unfair (the super-tall basketball player, the child who because of an early birthday or a late start to school is substantially older than the other participants, etc.). Are the committees now going to turn to micro-managing competition among schoolchildren to ensure the maximum possible fairness, through height, weight, age restrictions, etc.? Unlikely, and for good reasons that apply here too.

The open-ended causes of action the legislation creates show that the aim of the legislation is not simply to protect competition. Anyone "who is deprived of the opportunity to participate in an athletic sport or on an athletic team or who suffers any direct or indirect harm as the result of a violation" can sue the educational institution. The breadth of this provision is immense.

Imagine a girl who wants to try basketball as a high school freshman and signs up for the lowest freshman squad, but is denied a spot because it is full (and because she is unskilled at the sport). If a transgender athlete with only slightly better skills makes the team, we now have the basis for a lawsuit. But what if the girl who gets the last available spot is unusually tall, making her more appealing to the coach. Should we now allow the parents to sue the school because being tall is "unfair?"

Even worse, suppose both children are on a low-level freshman team, and the coach distributes minutes evenly among the players. Can a player bring a lawsuit because absent the transgender athlete they would have gotten to play a few more minutes (since there would be one less player on the team to share time)? The legislation says yes.

And worse still, even if a school and team are totally supportive of the transgender athlete playing, under the proposed law a player *from another team* could sue the other school claiming they suffered harm by having to compete against a team with a transgender player. What would their harm be? It is easy to imagine the student (or more likely, their parents) claiming that mingling with transgender children violated their sensibilities or principles and caused distress. This may sound ridiculous, but it is what this legislation allows. Do we really want to provide a legal remedy for people to

express their discriminatory bias against transgender children, thereby sanctioning and perhaps even encouraging such thinking? I would hope not.

In sum, the proposed legislation appears to be a solution in search of a problem. As the NCAA and Olympics show, any issues with competition at high levels can be addressed without shunning transgender athletes. And at lower competitive or recreational levels, we ought not be targeting transgender children for exclusion at all. On the contrary, we should be doing the opposite, by promoting their health and well-being rather than degrading it. Unfortunately, this proposed legislation is not a victimless endeavor. I urge the committees to carefully consider the wisdom, fairness and morality of these bills, and to reject them. Just let the kids play.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record. Thank you.

John Greene
Keyes Avenue
Madison, WI 53711

Date: 5.26.21

RE: Opposition to AB195, AB 196, SB 322, SB 323

My name is Katie Hamm, and I am an Adjunct Instructor with UW-Milwaukee. I'm submitting this testimony because I am a mother, a teacher, and someone who serves my community. I have Trans people in my life whose well-being matters to me, but first and foremost, I have years of experience working in youth homelessness and in classrooms where I have had the privilege of serving Trans young people. This experience informs my urgent request to vote against the ban of Trans youth in sports.

One of the most impactful experiences was when I was working in Milwaukee Public Schools teaching a sexual health curriculum many years ago. In one of the middle schools was a Trans student, a 14 year old girl named "Sara". Sara was very dynamic and always had a group of other girls who wanted to be in her orbit. She was open about her experiences and identity, while also being inquisitive about the curriculum and courageous enough to ask questions, which can be hard in middle school. Sara was also frequently absent, and over time, as Sara and I developed a trusting relationship I learned why.

Sara lived in a neighborhood where there was no yellow bus route, so she took the city bus to school each day. This meant walking from her house through the neighborhood to a busy city intersection where she would wait for the bus. From the moment she left her house to walk 10 – 15 minutes to the bus stop, she was exposed and vulnerable. *Every day* she was harassed, frequently spit on, called names and solicited for sex. *She was 14*. One morning I remember her arriving to school soaking wet. This was late March, when the snow was melting and leaving dirty deep puddles next to the curb. A man in a car had rolled down his window to harass her and then purposefully swerved his car close to the curb, hit the puddle and sprayed the dark, icy water over her. The most striking thing about this was sadly not what the man did, but that Sara made it to school anyway. She didn't return home, she wanted to be in school. I cried that day, but she didn't. Grim faced, she simply went to class.

Then there were the days Sara was not there. Her absence always keenly noted by students and teachers; the worry for her welfare and the empty space where her courageous questions would have been. On these days, Sara simply couldn't make the journey from her room down the street to the bus stop. She was too tired, too sad.

I'm writing this today for Sara, and every student like Sara who go through battles most people in this room will never understand, or frankly experience. I am against the bills because when students like Sara make it to school, they deserve the doors to fully open to them. Exclusion feels like unworthiness to a child, like un-deservingness, like "I'm not good enough". Every child deserves to know without a doubt that they belong, that they matter, that they are seen and supported, exactly as they are. Students like Sara deserve the freedom to move and train their bodies, to enjoy the camaraderie of team sports, to push themselves, to be coached and encouraged and supported like every other child. For some youth, the sport they engage in at school may motivate them to make it one more day, one more day, *one more day* as the world around them seems to work against their very existence.

Trans students deserve a safe place in the classroom, on the court, on the field and *wherever they choose to be*. Their presence is critical not only for their own development and wellbeing, but also because their classmates' experiences are lessened without them. As a teacher, I want Trans youth in my classroom to have all the experiences that every other youth will have. As a mother, I want my

children to train with, compete with, and grow with Trans youth, who are just children, no more no less, and as such deserve the best of us. Please vote against these harmful bills. Thank you.

May 24, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Cabell Gathman, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I am a cisgender woman and the mother of three young children, including two cisgender girls whose “protection” is the supposed goal of legislation like this. When I told my 9-year-old and 7-year-old about these bills, they asked me to tell the legislature, “No, we want trans kids to play with us.” My 9-year-old daughter, Andromeda, loves soccer. Before the pandemic, she came home multiple days a week talking about strategy she’d developed playing with her friends. All children and adolescents deserve the experience of building community on sports teams and learning fair play and respect—fundamental values that are perverted by this call to mandate discrimination and segregation in Wisconsin schools. By demanding that schools single out vulnerable transgender students, isolating them from their peer groups and legitimizing the bullying and harassment that so many already experience (Connolly et al. 2016), this legislation represents a major threat to the moral and civic development of all children, cis and trans.

Additionally, it is foolish to believe that these laws will not become tools to exclude any child, including many cisgender children, whose gender expression and literal human bodies do not fit incredibly narrow and regressive standards of “femininity.” My cisgender 9-year-old prefers clothing from the boys’ department at Kohl’s and might be labeled a “tomboy”; she is also tall for her age. In fact, while the average height for men as a group is indeed greater than the average height for women, there is a great deal of overlap, and height, like other physical attributes, varies widely for all kinds of reasons, including the simple luck of the genetic draw. Young girls in the United States are already bombarded with damaging messages about “ideal female bodies.” Laws like these ensure that many girls will be singled out and ordered to prove their gender because someone (A coach? A staff member? A competitor’s parent?) thinks their individual body is “wrong.”

In the aftermath of cases like Larry Nassar's serial sexual assaults of child athletes, it should also be obvious that teaching children that they must submit to broad adult scrutiny of their bodies, with a transparent focus on their genitals and the threat of exclusion if their bodies are deemed somehow "wrong," creates opportunities for adult predators to more easily target and manipulate victims. These laws further fundamentally deny the autonomy of children in describing their own bodies and experiences, fostering a culture of silence in which victims are likely to assume they will not be believed even if they come forward. Transgender children, like, transgender adults, are vastly more likely than cisgender children to be the victims of sexual abuse and assault, but all children will be endangered if these bills are made into law. As a parent and an educator, I think this particular impact of anti-trans legislation merits much greater public attention than it seems to have so far elicited.

In addition to my personal experience as a parent, I hold a PhD in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where since 2014, I have taught both introductory and upper-level courses in LGBTQ issues and the sociology of medicine. I have worked closely with several faculty members in the medical school to provide the most up-to-date research evidence and standards for clinical practice to my students. Experts agree: For transgender children and adolescents, community support is literally a matter of life and death. The terrifyingly high relative risk of suicidality and self-harm for trans youth compared to their cisgender peers is significantly reduced, and in some cases, completely eliminated, by acceptance and inclusion (Connolly et al. 2016). Like bathroom access, the right to participate fully in athletics both meets a fundamental human need and serves as a broader signal that trans kids' humanity is recognized and embraced, that they can reasonably expect the same safety and care that all children deserve in our education system. Even after accounting for individual victimization, protection of trans people's ability to participate fully in public life in these ways has been shown to reduce suicidality (Seelman 2016).

Experts also agree that laws seeking, like these, to police sex and gender are divorced from basic scientific knowledge. The natural variation that exists among bodies within a single gender or sex category is much greater than many laypeople realize. The endocrine disorder polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS), for example, is estimated to affect as many as 10% of all women (Wolf et al. 2018). Women with PCOS naturally produce levels of androgens such as testosterone that are higher than the "female average," and in fact overlap with levels that would not be remarkable for men, yet even the most conservative members of this body would be unlikely to argue that a girl with PCOS should be barred from her high school's teams. Additionally, there is no clear evidence that testosterone even correlates with athletic performance. Yet too many arguments against the participation of trans girls in athletics rest on unscientific folk theories about hormones, and further reinforce the damaging message that "real girls" must meet a standard of skinniness and hairlessness that is unrealistic for most women, let alone those with PCOS.

It is not only hormone levels that frequently do not meet lay expectations of "typical" femininity or masculinity. Over the past few years, intersex activists have brought increased attention to ethical issues with the treatment of infants born with "ambiguous genitals." However, still few laypeople appreciate just how diverse and common intersex traits, involving some atypical combination of chromosomes, gonads, genitals, hormones, and secondary sex characteristics like body hair and fat distribution, actually are. The vast majority of intersex people learn about their intersex traits in adolescence or adulthood, if they ever learn about them at all. To introduce requirements for any kind of "gender testing" for young athletes would certainly result in a sharp increase in children and adolescents receiving what should be a neutral and private medical diagnosis under cruelly traumatic and stigmatizing circumstances.

“Fairness” in athletics is, honestly, a sticky subject. Any coach can tell you that the high school athletes who receive college scholarships and, in a handful of cases, go on to professional careers almost always benefit from early training that in most sports is the direct result of significant monetary investment by parents and other family members. We don’t require children with wealthy families to form their own separate athletic teams. Although residential segregation and its impact on school district demographics produce a similar outcome, no one would suggest that it is unfair for those teams to compete against teams from poor districts, or that their members should not take pride in their championship wins. And of course, money alone cannot buy gold medals. Human variety is nearly infinite, and the most gifted athletes obviously build, with hard work and training, on “natural ability” that is simply the luck of the draw. Most trans girls will not become elite athletes just as the vast majority of children don’t, and there is nothing about being transgender that confers particular advantage.

What we can say about “fairness” is that it is unfair and wrong to exclude children from competition because of the way they were born—the inherent qualities that, in fact, contribute to their individuality, and often lead them to take an interest in a particular sport, as a tall teenager might decide to give basketball or track a try. We can say that children deserve a chance to work hard and measure their performance against their history and personal bests, enjoying all the things that their bodies can do and forming a healthy appreciation for function over apparent conformity with heavily edited media images. We can say that children should learn to support and uplift their peers, celebrating both the things they have in common and the differences that make us, as a community, strong. None of these goals are served by these discriminatory pieces of legislation, and I urge you to oppose them.

Sincerely,

E. Cabell Hankinson Gathman, PhD

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Lee STATE REPRESENTATIVE
SNODGRASS

May 26, 2021

Representative Lee Snodgrass

Dear Chair Thiesfeldt, Chair Murphy, Chair Jacque and honorable members of the Assembly Committee on Education, Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities, and Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families,

I am writing today as a state representative, a mother, the chair of the Legislative LGBTQ Caucus, a lifetime Girl Scout member and a proud bisexual woman. I am writing to convey my strong objection to AB 195, AB 196, SB 322 and SB 323 which seek to ban participation of transgender girls in both high school and college athletic programs on the teams of their identified gender.

As fellow legislators, you know as well as I do that this is an exercise in political theater. It is legislation written (or borrowed rather) from other legislation nationwide which seeks to appeal to a certain conservative base which seeks to divide and is rooted in fear and ignorance. You know there is no pervasive problem in Wisconsin (nor the rest of the country). You know that respected professional organizations are against such legislation. You know that athletic organizations and professional athletes are against this. And most importantly, you know the Governor will veto this and the Democrats will sustain the veto. So why are we doing this? Why have we brought this Bill which will thankfully go nowhere to a hearing? This is political theater. At best political theater is a waste of time and taxpayer dollars at worst, as in this case, it is a cruel and painful exercise that will negatively impact the mental health and well-being of all youth, not just transgender youth.

I find it ironic that the party who was often loudest about "opening schools" due to the negative impact of mental health of our youth and the higher incidents of youth suicide in the pandemic would introduce legislation which is causing so much harm to the mental health and well-being of children. Further, transgender youth are at higher risk for suicide and self-harm as it is.

I could go on and on about how the WIAA, NCAA, American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, citing harm are all against these bills. These bills are calculated, cruel, negligent and messy. And as I mentioned, are a waste of time played out in the media, causing harm to thousands of young people witnessing these messages that say, "You are not welcome here. You have no place."



57TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Lee STATE REPRESENTATIVE
SNODGRASS

In only five months here in the minority party, I know how this works. You will not listen. You will not heed the evidence. You will not change your course of action. Testimony and letters like mine will be ignored or laughed at and you will move forward with your agenda unchecked. Still, I am undeterred and must formally register my deep disappointment and sorrow regarding this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,



Representative Lee Snodgrass



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To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Kate Walton. I live here in Madison, and I am a registered nurse. I am here today to register my opposition to Senate Bills 322 and 323.

A couple of years ago I had the opportunity to act as a nurse at a camp for transgender kids. Our nurse's cabin was located on the edge of the field where the children played games like kickball and tag, had water balloon fights, and congregated with their friends during their free time. When I wasn't taking care of skinned knees and twisted ankles and insect bites, I was able to watch these kids as they did kid stuff--played games, practiced cartwheels, and braided grasses into friendship bracelets and crowns.

In fact, I remember thinking as I watched these children play that if a stranger pulled up at any given moment--if someone was lost and looking for directions, for instance, or delivering a package--they'd look out at that field and see the same thing I saw:

Children. Happy, healthy children running around doing exactly what any other kid their age would do if they were at camp.

Because that's what children are--regardless of their gender identity--when they have the love, support and acceptance of their family and community. That's what children are when they are accepted for who they are. That's what children are when they're allowed to grow, to explore, to become their whole and authentic selves.

They're happy. They're healthy.

We have numerous studies, and I've attached several of them to my written testimony for you, showing this truth: transgender children and adults have lower rates of suicidal ideation, of depression, of anxiety, when they have the support of their family and community, when they have access to medical care that affirms their identity, and when the institutions that govern the world they live in make space for them to simply exist. When their schools provide the space for them to worry about their grades instead of whether or not they can safely use the bathroom, to worry about getting their homework done instead of fighting to play on a sports team with their friends. When their medical providers and governments, to paraphrase one of the kids at that camp, don't think they know more about trans kids' gender or gender identity than the kids themselves. When their communities celebrate the ways that different identities enrich our lives and our social groups, rather than discriminating against those who are different or using those identities as weapons.

To be very blunt, laws like SB 322 & SB 323 will **hurt children**. This is supported again and again by science, by evidence-based practice. Singling out transgender children, refusing them

access to sports, to these basic experiences of childhood has demonstrable and measurable effects on their health and well being. Laws like this cause real, actual harm to real, actual children. They also run the risk of being used against cisgender children like the ones they're purporting to protect--it's not inconceivable that an athlete who excels at her chosen sport will be attacked under this law and made to 'prove' her gender, for instance. Again, these are kids who just want to play with their friends, who just want to be kids. Who stand to reap the benefits of physical exercise, to learn essential skills of cooperation and teamwork, to learn that they are capable of so much more than they ever could have dreamed--if only we provide the framework and support for them to have this.

I say again: Laws like this will **hurt children**. I am here to ask you today, why do you want to hurt Wisconsin children?

I urge you to vote against causing harm to our children. I urge you to vote against AB 196 / these bills.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,
Katherine A. Walton, RN
3917 Mammoth Trail
Madison, Wisconsin 53719

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VOICES | Opinion *This piece expresses the views of its author(s), separate from those of this publication.*

In real life, transgender girls in sports are a non-controversy: Retired high school coach

We belatedly stopped excluding athletes of color from high school and college sports. How many more years will people try to exclude trans athletes?

Larry Strauss Opinion columnist

Published 5:00 a.m. ET Apr. 9, 2021 | Updated 12:26 p.m. ET Apr. 15, 2021

About 25 years ago a friend invited me to join a basketball game he and his brothers-in-law had started at a local gym on Sunday nights. The first time I showed up, one of the regulars objected and an argument ensued, mostly in Armenian.

My friend turned to me and explained, in English, that they had all agreed this game would be for people six feet tall and under. I stood just over 6'1". Watching the hand and arm gestures, I gathered that some of the guys believed that if they let me in, the game would soon be dominated by seven-footers. But my friend won the argument and I became a regular.

Soon there were other new guys taller than me, including one near 6'5". Somehow we all competed, got a workout each week, and mostly got along.

Over the years that game has become increasingly competitive — and younger — while I've gotten older and slower. I keep trying because I love to play and what matters to me is being able to compete, to test myself against any level of competition. It is who I am and who I hope to be for as long as I can. I consider myself fortunate to still be playing at my age and particularly blessed to have spent my entire life being exactly who I am, on or off a basketball court, unashamed and unchallenged about it.

Transgender people, athletes included, enjoy no such fortune.

Competitive equity is an elusive goal

Not in Arkansas, where the legislature overrode Gov. Asa Hutchinson's veto of a bill banning transitional surgeries and hormone supplements for trans youth. Not in South Dakota, where Gov. Kristi Noem and the state legislature have mandated that high school athletes may compete only according to the gender they were assigned at birth.

More than a dozen states have proposed or instituted bans on transgender athletes. Mississippi calls its version “the Mississippi Fairness Act,” offering up the popular concern that trans female athletes have an unfair advantage over other female athletes and that their presence would violate the competitive equity that is the very reason for separate girls’ and boys’ sports and women’s and men’s sports.

Such fears, in and of themselves, are not bigotry. But they do reflect a sadly limited understanding of high school sports and high school athletes.

Competitive equity is a beautiful and elusive objective for those of us who coach or oversee high school athletics. It is why we have junior varsity teams and freshmen and sophomore teams and why we try to match up teams that won’t slaughter one another. It often does not work out that way and we have all seen and heard about lopsided scores in high school football and basketball and pretty much every other sport.

There are athletes whose physical gifts and athletic talent make them so dominant that it really doesn’t seem fair (I know firsthand, having coached against some of them). And does anyone believe there is any justice in the so-called “genetic lottery”?

The possibility that a trans female athlete might enjoy any degree of physical advantage, then, will in no meaningful way alter the competitive equation.

In fact, it rarely has. In the more than eight years since the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) began allowing high school athletes to compete as the gender with which they identify — regardless of what they were assigned at birth — there has not been a single case in which a trans female athlete has been dominant enough to stir protest.

No safe place: *What you should know about a transgender woman like me: Every day in public is risky*

This shouldn’t surprise us since the best athletes, of any gender, keep getting faster and stronger and more skilled. In 1970, Mark Spitz swam the 100-meter freestyle in 51.94 seconds. The current female world record for the 100-meter freestyle is Sarah Sjöström’s 51.71 seconds. That’s about 5

seconds slower than the current men's record of 46.91 seconds, but very few swimmers will ever come close to either time.

So while a trans female might be a dominant athlete for some high school teams in some prep leagues, it is very unlikely she will be superior to the most elite female athletes. A few years ago, a school here in Los Angeles won a girls tennis state championship with a trans female player on the roster — but she didn't get to play in the championship match because she wasn't one of the top 11 players on the team.

Our mission should be inclusion

Offering inclusion to some of our most vulnerable young people, who are at great risk for depression, drug abuse and suicide, ought to be the mission of every educator and every other thinking and loving human being.

I am proud to be part of the CIF, one of the state high school governing bodies leading the way on this issue. I expected no less. For all of the grotesque injustices in California's past (Japanese internment, deporting U.S. citizens of Mexican descent and the racism that is the legacy of every state), our state was where Jackie Robinson showcased his athletic genius as a UCLA four-sport athlete before he went on to integrate Major League Baseball in 1947.

Pass the Equality Act: Discriminatory rhetoric and laws are devastating to LGBTQ youth

It took close to a shameful quarter-century for the universities of Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia to finally integrate their sports teams.

You don't see too many people in Mississippi or anywhere else still carrying a banner for the exclusion of athletes of color in high school or college athletics. I wonder how many more years they will disgrace themselves hoisting the banner for the exclusion of transgender athletes.

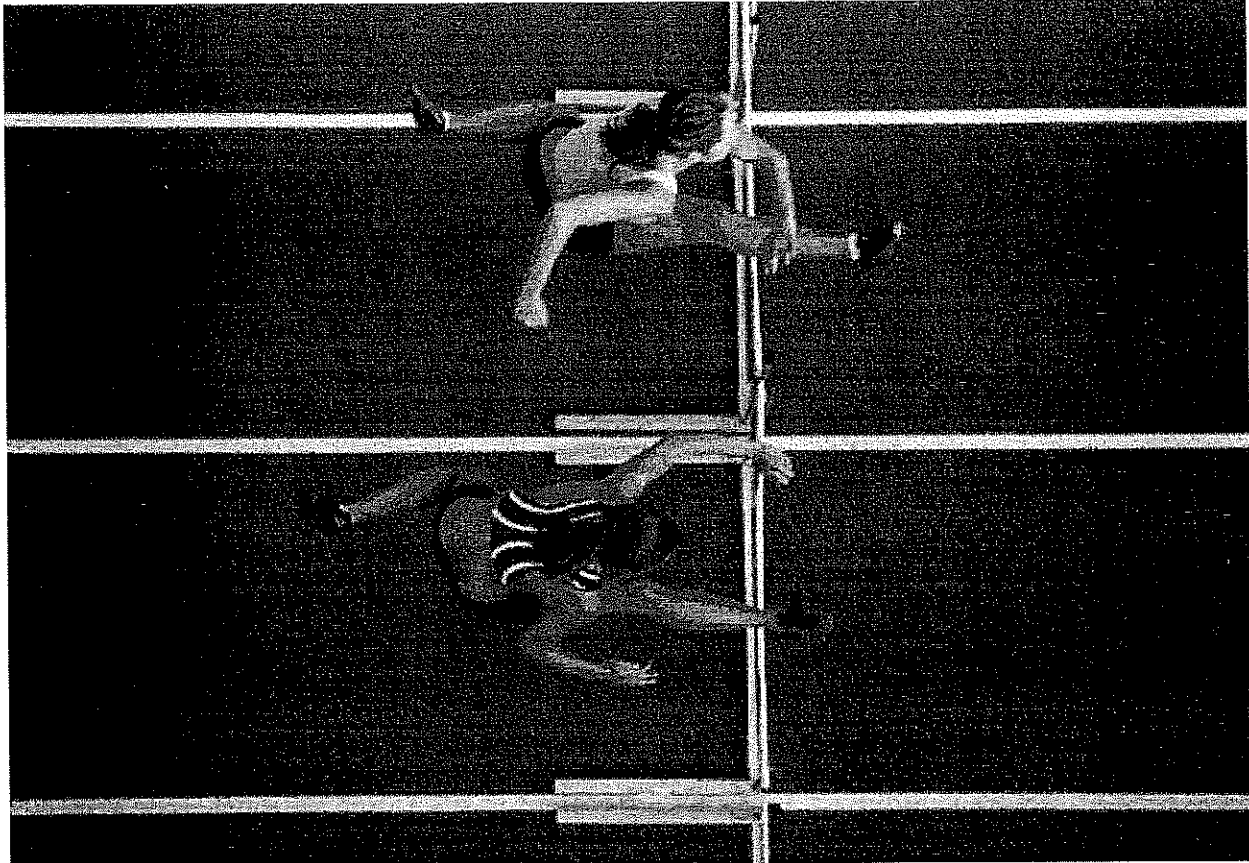
Larry Strauss is a high school English teacher and retired basketball coach in South Los Angeles. A member of USA TODAY's Board of Contributors, he is the author of more than a dozen books, most recently "Students First and Other Lies: Straight Talk From a Veteran Teacher" and, on audio, "Now's the Time" (narrated by Kim Fields). Follow him on Twitter: @LarryStrauss

POLICY & ETHICS

Trans Girls Belong on Girls' Sports Teams

There is no scientific case for excluding them

By Jack Turban on March 16, 2021



Credit: James Oliver *Getty Images*

In February 2020, the families of three cisgender girls filed a federal lawsuit against the Connecticut Association of Schools, the nonprofit Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference and several boards of education in the state. The families were upset that transgender girls were competing against the cisgender girls in high school track leagues. They argued that transgender girls have an unfair advantage in high school sports and should be forced to play on boys' teams.

Conservatives around the country have jumped on the question. Attorney General Merrick Garland was pressed on the issue during his confirmation hearing last month. State legislators around the country are pushing bills that would force trans girls to compete on boys' teams. In describing the Connecticut case in the *Wall Street Journal*,

opinion writer Abigail Shrier expressed a representative argument: when transgender girls compete on girls' sports teams, she wrote, "[cisgender] girls can't win."

The opinion piece left out the fact that two days after the Connecticut lawsuit was filed by the cisgender girls' families, one of those girls beat one of the transgender girls named in the lawsuit in a Connecticut state championship. It turns out that when transgender girls play on girls' sports teams, cisgender girls can win. In fact, the vast majority of female athletes are cisgender, as are the vast majority of winners. There is no epidemic of transgender girls dominating female sports. Attempts to force transgender girls to play on the boys' teams are unconscionable attacks on already marginalized transgender children, and they don't address a real problem. They're unscientific, and they would cause serious mental health damage to both cisgender and transgender youth.

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Policies permitting transgender athletes to play on teams that match their gender identity are not new. The Olympics have had trans-inclusive policies since 2004, but a single openly transgender athlete has yet to even qualify. California passed a law in 2013 that allows trans youth to compete on the team that matches their gender identity; there have been no issues. U SPORTS, Canada's equivalent to the U.S.'s National Collegiate Athletic Association, has allowed transgender athletes to compete with the team that matches their identity for the past two years.

The notion of transgender girls having an unfair advantage comes from the idea that testosterone causes physical changes such as an increase in muscle mass. But transgender girls are not the only girls with high testosterone levels. An estimated 10 percent of women have polycystic ovarian syndrome, which results in elevated testosterone levels. They are not banned from female sports. Transgender girls on puberty blockers, on the other hand, have negligible testosterone levels. Yet these state bills would force them to play with the boys. Plus, the athletic advantage conferred by testosterone is equivocal. As Katrina Karkazis, a senior visiting fellow and expert on testosterone and bioethics at Yale University explains, "Studies of testosterone levels in athletes do not show any clear, consistent relationship between testosterone and athletic

performance. Sometimes testosterone is associated with better performance, but other studies show weak links or no links. And yet others show testosterone is associated with worse performance.” The bills’ premises lack scientific validity.

Claiming that transgender girls have an unfair advantage in sports also neglects the fact that these kids have the deck stacked against them in nearly every other way imaginable. They suffer from higher rates of bullying, anxiety and depression—all of which make it more difficult for them to train and compete. They also have higher rates of homelessness and poverty because of common experiences of family rejection. This is likely a major driver of why we see so few transgender athletes in collegiate sports and none in the Olympics.

On top of the notion of transgender athletic advantage being dubious, enforcing these bills would be bizarre and cruel. Idaho’s H.B. 500, which was signed into law but currently has a preliminary injunction against its enforcement, would essentially let people accuse students of lying about their sex. Those students would then need to “prove” their sex through means including an invasive genital exam or genetic testing. And what happens when a kid comes back with XY chromosomes but a vagina (as occurs with people with complete androgen insensitivity syndrome)? Do they play on the boys’ team or the girls’ team? This is just one of several conditions that would make such sex policing impossible.

It’s worth noting that this isn’t the first time people have tried to discredit the success of athletes from marginalized minorities based on half-baked claims of “science.” There is a long history of similarly painting Black athletes as “genetically superior” in an attempt to downplay the effects of their hard work and training.

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Recently, some have even harkened back to eras of “separate but equal,” suggesting that transgender athletes should be forced into their own leagues. In addition to all the reasons why this is unnecessary that I’ve already explained, it is also unjust. As we’ve learned from women’s sports leagues, separate is not equal. Female athletes consistently

have to deal with fewer accolades, less press coverage and lower pay. A transgender sports league would undoubtedly be plagued with the same issues.

Beyond the trauma of sex-verification exams, these bills would cause further emotional damage to transgender youth. While we haven't seen an epidemic of transgender girls dominating sports leagues, we have seen high rates of anxiety, depression and suicide attempts. Research highlights that a major driver of these mental health problems is rejection of someone's gender identity. Forcing trans youth to play on sports teams that don't match their identity will worsen these disparities. It's a classic form of transgender conversion therapy, a discredited practice of trying to force transgender people to be cisgender and gender-conforming.

Though this can be hard for cisgender people to understand, imagine someone told you that you were a different gender and then forced you to play on the sports team of that gender throughout all of your school years. You'd likely be miserable and confused.



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As a child psychiatry fellow, I spend a lot of time with kids. They have many worries on their minds: bullying, sexual assault, divorcing parents, concerns they won't get into college. What they're not worried about is transgender girls playing on girls' sports teams.

Legislators need to work on the issues that truly impact young people and women's sports—lower pay to female athletes, less media coverage for women's sports and cultural environments that lead to high dropout rates for diverse athletes—instead of manufacturing problems and “solutions” that hurt the kids we are supposed to be protecting.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR(S)

Jack Turban is a fellow in child and adolescent psychiatry at the Stanford University School of Medicine, where he researches the mental health of transgender youth. His writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and more. Follow him on Twitter [@jack_turban](#).

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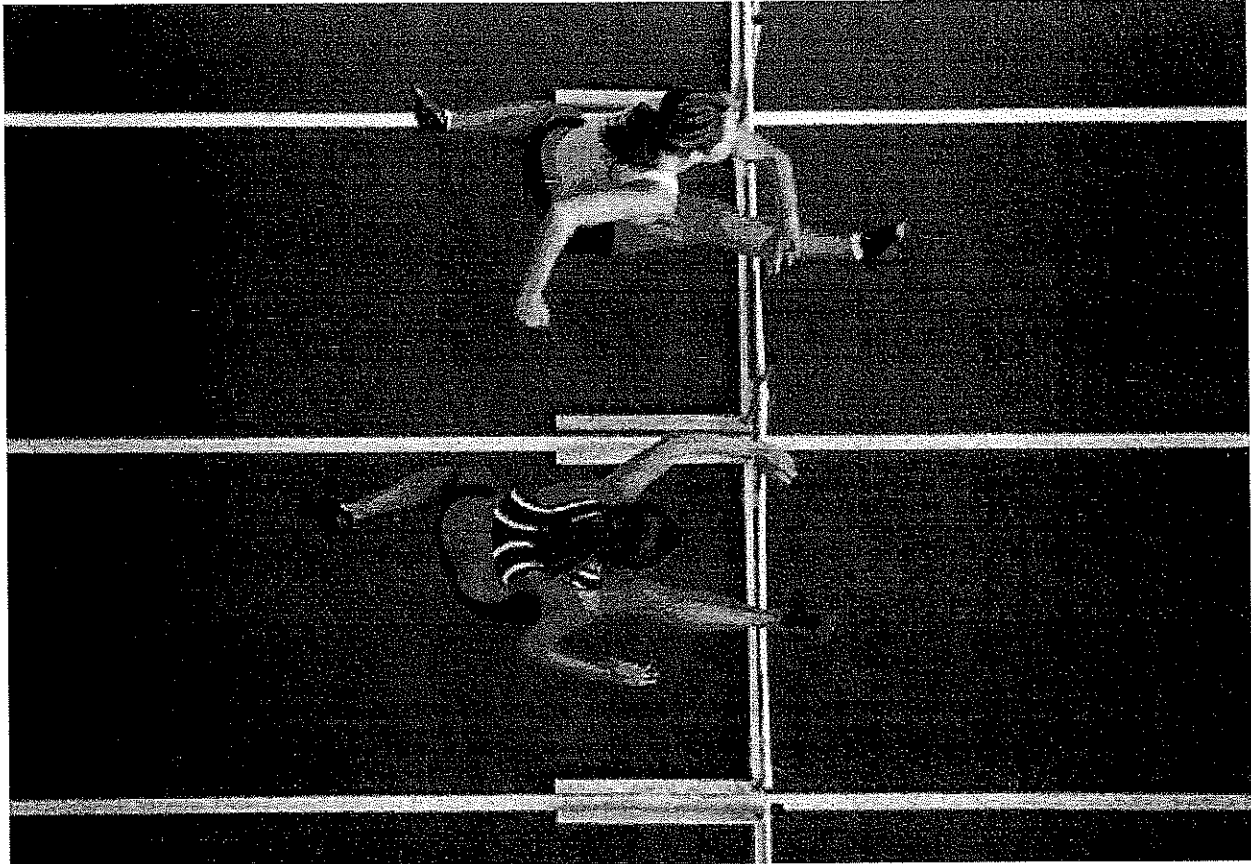
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POLICY & ETHICS

Trans Girls Belong on Girls' Sports Teams

There is no scientific case for excluding them

By Jack Turban on March 16, 2021



Credit: James Oliver *Getty Images*

In February 2020, the families of three cisgender girls filed a federal lawsuit against the Connecticut Association of Schools, the nonprofit Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference and several boards of education in the state. The families were upset that transgender girls were competing against the cisgender girls in high school track leagues. They argued that transgender girls have an unfair advantage in high school sports and should be forced to play on boys' teams.

Conservatives around the country have jumped on the question. Attorney General Merrick Garland was pressed on the issue during his confirmation hearing last month. State legislators around the country are pushing bills that would force trans girls to compete on boys' teams. In describing the Connecticut case in the *Wall Street Journal*,

opinion writer Abigail Shrier expressed a representative argument: when transgender girls compete on girls' sports teams, she wrote, "[cisgender] girls can't win."

The opinion piece left out the fact that two days after the Connecticut lawsuit was filed by the cisgender girls' families, one of those girls beat one of the transgender girls named in the lawsuit in a Connecticut state championship. It turns out that when transgender girls play on girls' sports teams, cisgender girls can win. In fact, the vast majority of female athletes are cisgender, as are the vast majority of winners. There is no epidemic of transgender girls dominating female sports. Attempts to force transgender girls to play on the boys' teams are unconscionable attacks on already marginalized transgender children, and they don't address a real problem. They're unscientific, and they would cause serious mental health damage to both cisgender and transgender youth.

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Policies permitting transgender athletes to play on teams that match their gender identity are not new. The Olympics have had trans-inclusive policies since 2004, but a single openly transgender athlete has yet to even qualify. California passed a law in 2013 that allows trans youth to compete on the team that matches their gender identity; there have been no issues. U SPORTS, Canada's equivalent to the U.S.'s National Collegiate Athletic Association, has allowed transgender athletes to compete with the team that matches their identity for the past two years.

The notion of transgender girls having an unfair advantage comes from the idea that testosterone causes physical changes such as an increase in muscle mass. But transgender girls are not the only girls with high testosterone levels. An estimated 10 percent of women have polycystic ovarian syndrome, which results in elevated testosterone levels. They are not banned from female sports. Transgender girls on puberty blockers, on the other hand, have negligible testosterone levels. Yet these state bills would force them to play with the boys. Plus, the athletic advantage conferred by testosterone is equivocal. As Katrina Karkazis, a senior visiting fellow and expert on testosterone and bioethics at Yale University explains, "Studies of testosterone levels in athletes do not show any clear, consistent relationship between testosterone and athletic

performance. Sometimes testosterone is associated with better performance, but other studies show weak links or no links. And yet others show testosterone is associated with worse performance.” The bills’ premises lack scientific validity.

Claiming that transgender girls have an unfair advantage in sports also neglects the fact that these kids have the deck stacked against them in nearly every other way imaginable. They suffer from higher rates of bullying, anxiety and depression—all of which make it more difficult for them to train and compete. They also have higher rates of homelessness and poverty because of common experiences of family rejection. This is likely a major driver of why we see so few transgender athletes in collegiate sports and none in the Olympics.

On top of the notion of transgender athletic advantage being dubious, enforcing these bills would be bizarre and cruel. Idaho’s H.B. 500, which was signed into law but currently has a preliminary injunction against its enforcement, would essentially let people accuse students of lying about their sex. Those students would then need to “prove” their sex through means including an invasive genital exam or genetic testing. And what happens when a kid comes back with XY chromosomes but a vagina (as occurs with people with complete androgen insensitivity syndrome)? Do they play on the boys’ team or the girls’ team? This is just one of several conditions that would make such sex policing impossible.

It’s worth noting that this isn’t the first time people have tried to discredit the success of athletes from marginalized minorities based on half-baked claims of “science.” There is a long history of similarly painting Black athletes as “genetically superior” in an attempt to downplay the effects of their hard work and training.

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May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Karl Thornton, my pronouns are he/his, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. I firmly believe that transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I don't normally write emails of this type, but the bills currently being introduced look like bad solutions in search of problems. , not as a means of pandering on a divisive issue that will only hurt children. I am not worried about my kids being trans or having trans teammates. I am worried about them being exposed at a young age to the idea that they or their classmates can be excluded from activities simply because of who they are. I am worried about the real harm they or those they care about will be exposed to if these bills pass. I believe that the concerns of the bill's proponents can be addressed by communication with the trans and non-binary community, and are far outweighed by the danger it presents to the kids it targets. Youth sports deserve support through funding and encouragement, not through acts like these.

Thank you for your time. I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,
Karl Thornton
6310 Pheasant R

Subject Line: Oppose AB195, AB196, SB 322, and SB 323 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

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To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Kari Rongstad, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I have made my teaching career about affirming, honoring and valuing all students. My identity has very much become about these values and making them real in my classroom and school building. I believe that these values anchor work against racism, homophobia, transphobia, and all ways that students are othered in school spaces. With these values in mind, I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323 which would undermine this work that is so much a part of who I am as an educator and person. These bills very much betray how I believe Wisconsin should treat all of its citizens, its transgender citizens included.

I oppose these proposed bills for many reasons, but at the core, because these bills undermine and dehumanize kids. By banning children from playing sports on teams with their peers, these bills further alienate and harm some of our most marginalized youth. These children want to play sports with their friends, kick a soccer ball around, pick dandelions when they're in right field, work up the nerve to try a reverse pike off the diving board. These experiences are very much a part of so many young people's lives. That's all trans kids want to be included in.

The fear-mongering that these bills reflect is completely misplaced and misguided. The situations in which trans girls are dominating their sport are entirely hypothetical and, in a country of 300 million people, have rarely come to pass. Most student athletes are mediocre. The same goes for trans students. In the eight years since the California Interscholastic Federation began allowing trans youth athletes to compete on the gendered teams that they identified, not a single trans athlete was so dominant that there was any controversy.

These bills would only serve to contribute to a society in which more than half of transgender children seriously consider suicide. Bills like these are one of the reasons why many trans kids don't feel accepted and loved in our society.

As a high school student, I learned so much about myself through playing sports. Playing soccer and ultimate frisbee and participating in dance team allowed me to learn about my body and health, but also to build relationships and community with my peers and develop my skills as a leader. Passing these bills would deprive trans children of these same opportunities that I, and so many of Wisconsin's adults and youth, have depended on.

Ultimately, these bills are the epitome of discrimination. These bills directly and unfairly target transgender children and would rob them of opportunities that cisgender children would freely have. These bills would also contribute to an environment in which transgender children feel so unseen and unvalued that many seriously consider taking their own lives. With these things in mind, again, I oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 3230--children's' lives are at stake here. Let them play sports. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kari Rongstad

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

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To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Kelli Sermou, my pronouns are She/Her/Hers, and I am writing to **oppose** the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As a School Social Worker in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity. These bills are direct attacks on students, and have no place in our state.

As a nation, we decided long ago that discrimination is wrong and that everyone should have the same opportunities to succeed in life—and that should include our transgender youth. All students want to play on a team, exercise and make friends. When we tell transgender girls that they can't participate in girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches. Schools across the country know that transgender students, like any student, thrive when they are treated with dignity and respect. School officials shouldn't treat a transgender female student as a girl between 8AM-3PM and then treat her like she's a boy when sports practice starts.

It can be hard to understand what it means to be transgender, especially if you've never met a transgender person. And it's common to have questions at first. But we can all

agree that transgender kids should be treated with dignity and respect, just like everyone else. Over the past three years I have had the privilege to support and meet with transgender youth in our community, as well as surrounding counties. During our time together we read stories. We listen to music and have zoom dance parties. We play games. We talk about our lives and the lives of those we love. The only difference between these conversations and conversations I have with my cisgender students is that these conversations are happening during our monthly scheduled support group.

Transgender children are children. They deserve to live authentically without discrimination. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kelli Semrau, MSW
School Social Worker - Madison Metropolitan School District

Capital High-Eastside & Capital High- Marquette
E Dayton St, Madison WI 53703

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

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To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

My name is Romana Shemayev, my pronouns are She/Her and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender. I feel very strongly that children can sense their true gender at a very young age. To disallow them to participate on sports teams which best align with their true sense of self is cruel and harmful.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote NO on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.
Sincerely,

Romana Shemayev
4813 Winnequah Road
Monona, WI 53716

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

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To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Joel Jarosky, my pronouns are He/Him/His, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender. As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

Kids learn a lot of important life lessons in sports: leadership, confidence, self-respect, and what it means to be part of a team. When we tell transgender girls that they can't play girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches. It can be hard to understand what it means to be transgender, especially if you've never met a transgender person. And it's common to have questions at first. But we can all agree that transgender kids should be treated with dignity and respect, just like everyone else. Local schools across the nation are already creating policies that protect transgender youth and ensure a level playing field for all students—and they're working. Banning transgender youth from playing sports undermines those local efforts. Transgender kids want the opportunity to play sports for the same reason other kids do: to be a part of a team where they feel like they belong. We shouldn't discriminate against kids and ban them from playing

because they're transgender. Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joel Jarosky
Madison Metropolitan School District
jjarosky@gmail.com

Statement from Rachel Crowl Resident of Appleton, Wisconsin

Since I can remember and all the way through my twenties I knew I was different. That I was trans. That I was female. I KNEW THIS.

I also knew that I better not tell a soul because this was the 80s and the 90s and the world I lived in had no room for me being transgender. It wasn't until I found enough courage equal to the desperation I felt to finally transition. It also helped that by that time I had loved ones who accepted me fully. That helps.

I did have to give up my acting career because at the time all that was available for me to play was some variation of a hooker. Dead or alive.

So I retired and we moved to Wisconsin and I got on with my life. But all those years I wasn't acting? I can't get those years back. In 2017 I rolled the dice and to my surprise I have a healthy acting career that takes me to stages and sets all over the country.

Because times have changed.

Now, young people who realize they're trans? The world has changed, my friends and very much so for the better. There's a chance now that they won't have to have years and years of anguish trying to hide or be something they're not. They have a chance to live those years as themselves and that's truly wonderful.

It's not perfect, obviously. I wouldn't be here if it were.

The bills you are considering today will truly have harmful repercussions for our trans youth.

When your government goes out of its way to regulate and legislate who you are in a way that singles you out for special – not better – treatment. That sends a message.

Being young is not easy in a very complicated world. Being trans is not easy because it's not easy. It's not a thing you wake up one day and say, "Gee, I'd like to turn my entire life upside down and risk censure and abandonment from those I love. Sure, I'd totally choose that!"

Not.

The legislation you are considering will only further complicate young people's lives when they're already so very complicated. It lacks empathy and it singles out a tiny group of people for a kind of public ridicule.

When I travel people ask me about what it's like to live in Wisconsin as if it were some mysterious place. Most of the time I only have good things to say. But this? This is embarrassing and cruel and needless.

I very much hope that you will find it in your hearts to just let kids play and get on with actually important stuff.

Thank you for your time.

Dear Esteemed Assembly and Senate Members:

Passage of this anti-trans sports legislation, and other bills like it, targets the dignity of trans and gender expansive people. Plainly put, and without sensationalism, these discriminatory and punitive measures will directly result in higher rates of bullying, violence, and murder for trans youth, who already face higher rates of self harm and homicide nationally. Not because of their sexuality or gender identity, but because of the way they're treated by society. Because of the way they're treated by you, the government, the body of people who are elected to protect them. Passing such legislation will re-normalize the gender policing and hateful stigmatization that held the women's movement back until only the recent few decades. This will unravel the rights of all marginalized folks starting with the already vulnerable population of women and humans who don't fit within the rigid confines of the binary. This will trigger increased harm against masculine cisgender women and feminine cisgender men because of how personally invasive and demeaning these measures will need to be in practice. There will be unnecessarily cruel repercussions of this that will inflict harm and hardship upon generations of athletes and taking this stance will rupture the mutually-held belief that the government of the state of Wisconsin has its residents' best interests and safety at heart.

These legislative measures and similar ones across the country are the result of targeted efforts by a small population of religious zealots and "Christian" extremists that have no resemblance to the teachings of Christ. I was raised Catholic and attended Catholic school my whole k-12 education. I am also a proud UW-Milwaukee alumni and a former MPS educator. In all of these various roles as student and teacher I was allowed to be myself and present as authentically as I wanted to because I was taught that I was made in Jesus's image. In my studies I learned about the teachings of Jesus Christ. He taught us to love everyone. Not in avoidance of what makes others different from us, but in deep embrace of what all makes us all the same. Humanity. Every Human life deserves dignity. Especially the lives of our gender diverse youth who just want the same experience as every other person deserves. These are not strangers—they are our children.

With everything we know about the humanity of trans people from the top minds of science, medicine, history, athletics, sociology and beyond: you cannot in good faith believe that this will not do harm to already vulnerable young adults. This will directly effect the lives of these trans athletes, their cis teammates, their families, and their communities. Please use your heart and do not vote for these anti-trans sports bills and any bills targeting the few brave folks who are able to shine and thrive as their truest selves. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Your Constituent, daughter, lifelong Wisconsinite, and queer mother of trans youth who are scared for their lives,

Alex Corona (she/her)
Milwaukee LGBT Community Center

Re: AB 195/6, SB 322/3

Esteemed Representatives and Senators serving on the committees which will hear these bills:

I'm writing today, first and foremost, as a feminist woman.

I am genuinely disappointed to see any bills pertaining to women's equality in sports target trans people, and here's why.

I became a feminist precisely because gender-based discrimination is wrong. After all, women and girls are more than half the population, and yet women's and girls' sports are still underfunded.

When I played sports competitively, as a kid, my gender was constantly called into question. Besting boys at the field, on the track, made people whisper that I was a lesbian, that I was queer, that I was a tomboy – and that that's why I was good.

None of those things were true, but it allowed people to dismiss my accomplishments as an athlete. But it did teach me that I had to learn to stand up to bullies.

As an adult, I accidentally married a trans woman. Accidentally, because she had not yet transitioned. We've been together for 20 years, married as a heterosexual couple in New York in 2001. It was not easy; it was never easy.

But what does make it easier are laws that support and help trans people and their families. We sometimes feel so far afield of actual equality that the smallest gestures help, the smallest discriminations wound in deeper ways than you'd expect.

I carry our marriage certificate, her birth certificate, and her name change documents with me at all times out of fear that one day I will be in an ER having to prove that I am her wife.

And even for us – she's been transitioned for more than a decade and I've been writing books and educating people about trans issues for even longer – we worry most about the young people. They have grown up in a world that has gotten so much better for trans people, and that, really, is the tragedy of these bills: that someone, somewhere, decided it was better to demonize trans people and make a boogeyman out of them instead of trying to help. Young trans people who don't have a supportive family have a 41% risk of suicide. They are bullied at school, at home, in the playground. Who decides this vulnerable group is the group to attack? Bullies, plain and simple.

This won't just hurt trans people, if that's the goal. It will hurt all the women and girls, especially the tomboys who will have their gender questioned and ridiculed. It will hurt the families and friends and siblings and teammates of trans people. It will hurt all of us.

Please don't advance these hateful bills. Ask yourself, after all, if any of the people supporting or promoting them, have, at any time in their histories, visibly and unconditionally supported women or women's sports in any possible way. I can promise you they haven't, and that's exactly how you know these bills are only an excuse to be hateful.

Stand up to these bullies and don't let them pick on young people who are already at risk.

Sincerely,

Helen Boyd, author/educator
324 E Franklin Street, Appleton, WI 54911
(718) 768-2330, helenbkramer@gmail.com

Subject: Oppose AB195, AB196, SB 322, and SB 323 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

Presented by Katie Hayden, 109 E. Lakeview Ave., Madison, WI 53716

May 26, 2021

My name is Katie Hayden, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am here today to oppose the proposed bills AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As a middle and high school girl growing up in La Crosse public schools, I did it all: softball, track, soccer, tennis, basketball, volleyball. I credit a lot of my healthy habits as an adult to the foundations I learned as a student-athlete - exercise can be fun, our bodies are powerful, I can challenge my own limits, healthy competition can teach us perseverance and humility (some of my teams lost a lot). School itself wasn't always a good fit for me, but I was given space to be myself in sports. No one questioned my right to join any team. My coaches and teammates pushed me to give all I had athletically, and they saw me for who I was. Two of my closest friendships were built on the JV tennis court and the varsity soccer field. I may not have launched a professional athletic career, but I am immensely grateful for the access I had to school sports and the friendships, leadership, discipline and physical health I developed.

Now that I'm a teacher, and coach, and parent, I see with new eyes how sports can be such a critical piece of a kid's life. Much to my surprise, my own child came out as trans between our fall and spring soccer seasons when they were in kindergarten. Based on their genetics, I have very little reason to predict that they'll be the star of any team. But like any other elementary schooler who wants to play, they want to have fun with their friends, and they thrive on the feeling of accomplishment when they master a new skill or work together with their teammates to score a goal.

Please, do not legislate the exclusion of my child: Vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322 and SB 323. Discrimination and exclusion have absolutely no place in our schools, on our courts, or on our fields. Trans kids, like kids of all genders, deserve access to play school sports. Trans boys are boys. Trans girls are girls. Non-binary kids are non-binary. Let them be kids, and let them play.

Presented to Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs;

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers;

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Subject Line: Oppose AB195, AB196, SB 322, and SB 323 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Sally Parks, my pronouns are she, her, hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As a parent and principal in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to creating schools where all children feel welcomed and supported. It is our responsibility to create a safe and non discriminatory environment for all our scholars. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

Sports are an important part of childhood and the learning experience. All students should have the opportunity to participate in a sport they love as their authentic selves. Through sports children learn the importance of teamwork and good sportsmanship. Many student athletes also develop leadership skills. Transgender youth should have these opportunities also.

As a parent, I want my child's transgender peers to be a part of the sports team that aligns with their gender identity. My daughter, like most kids, plays sports to have fun, develop friendships, and to be healthy. It would be hurtful for transgender youths to not be a part of this experience. This type of discrimination would be wrong and unjust.

All children need to live their lives as their authentic selves. I oppose the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sally A Parks
Parent and Principal in Madison Metropolitan School District
Stonebridge Dr.
Madison, WI 53719

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is AJ Boydston, my pronouns are he/him/his, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

Children learn many things from sports. Teamwork, strategy, sportsmanship, mentorship, perseverance, adaptability. Children deserve every opportunity we can afford for them to thrive and develop in these areas, and they cannot create these opportunities on their own. That is our responsibility, and it is our responsibility to protect and expand access as much as possible. I sit on admissions committees as part of my job. Some of the highest marks in holistic admissions processes are earned by an applicant's participation in sports. Not because my workplace has any emphasis or need for athleticism, but because of the lifelong skills and values that are attained by playing sports as a child. To create barriers for any group of children to play sports is to disadvantage them and harm them deeply, with long-lasting negative impacts. I am not transgender. I had the opportunity to be myself, wholly and openly, without ridicule or discrimination. When you're in the majority, you get to take that for granted. Being transgender is a natural and normal human identity, even if it's not one that was familiar to many of us growing up. As we in the majority learn and adapt, we should be expanding opportunity for all children, as was done for us. What we hear so often from transgender youth is that they have tremendous mountains to climb, physically, socially, emotionally. Acknowledging their right to live wholly as themselves includes allowing equal access to sports in a way that is in harmony with their mental, social, emotional, and human identities.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

AJ Boydston
545 Fargo Trail
Middleton, WI 53562

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

May it please the committee:

My name is Nicki Vander Meulen and my pronouns are she,her,hers. I am writing you today to urge you to vote against AB195/SB323 and AB196/SB322 as hate has no place in the Wisconsin State Constitution.

AB 195 and AB196 and their Senate counterparts will further remove trans children from their community and school activities. This forced removal of trans athletes will harm students mental and physical health.

“According to a recent **Center for American Progress report**, transgender youth are more likely to experience depression, suicidal ideation, bullying, harassment, violence, and rejection from their peers than their cisgender classmates. Trans-affirming policies, including those around inclusion in sports, mitigate those factors.”

This bill doesn't protect women's sports instead it legalizes discrimination against our trans youth . Please vote no on AB 195 and 196 and SB322 and SB323.

Sincerely,
Nicki Vander Meulen
MMSD School Board member Seat 7.

Dear Assembly and Senate Committee Members,

I'm here today to testify against AB 196 and SB 322, two bills designed to restrict the participation of transgender individuals in K-12 sports. While I know that the chances of these bills actually being signed into law are slim, I feel that it is necessary to speak in opposition to these bills today to support the transgender and nonbinary athletes that you are harming by even the mere introduction and discussion of anti-transgender legislation designed to ban them from activities that bring joy to their lives.

I am a female athlete who has participated competitively in environments with transgender and nonbinary players without issue. I am also the youth director for the Madison Ultimate Frisbee Association (MUFA), a role in which we allow transgender and nonbinary youth players to self-select into the team or gender-match on field that they would prefer to play against. This self-selection creates no issues and the transgendered, nonbinary, gender queer, and gender questioning players who participate are valued members of our community who are welcomed by both the organization and their peers. They deserve the right to play the sports that they love while being able to honor their gender identity.

These bills are not solutions to a problem that exists, they are the problem. To be clear: The private organizations that govern youth sports already have policies in place that address the participation of transgender athletes in sports. The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association, better known as WIAA, already has an established Transgender Participaton Policy. The first guiding principle of that policy is a commitment to ensuring that transgender students have opportunities to participate in WIAA sponsored athletics. For the sport I organize, our national governing body, USA Ultimate, has a Gender Inclusion Policy that sanctioned events follow. Other non-WIAA sports, such as La Crosse and Rugby, have similar guidance from their governing bodies allowing transgender athletes to participate in sports. Private organizations have already found ways to include athletes in sports while honoring their gender identity, regardless of their sex assigned at birth. They are the experts in this matter and we should be allowing those organizations to establish protocols for participants instead of making laws that outright ban the participation of youth athletes in sports.

The benefits of participating in youth sports are numerous, including physical and mental health benefits, the opportunity to be a part of a community, and the pure enjoyment of participating in a sport that one loves. To ban youth players from these activities is wrong. The fact that we are here today to even *discuss* banning these players from youth sports is wrong and I encourage you to vote against these bills and stop the continued harm you are causing transgender athletes in this state.

To the transgender, nonbinary, genderqueer, and gender questioning youth athletes in my own sport and in other sports: You are valued, you belong in your sport, and you are a welcomed teammate. Please do not, for one second, let the introduction and discussion of these bills make you question your place in sports and in our society at large.

Thank you for your time and for your vote against the passage of these bills.

Sara Lazenby
Madison, Wisconsin

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Hi, my name is Lola Hernandez and my pronouns are she/her/hers. I'm a 15 year old cisgender female, and a student and athlete at James Madison Memorial High School in Madison, Wisconsin.

AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323 force transgender and gender-expansive students, from kindergarten to college, to play on sports teams based on the biological sex on their birth certificate or to be on a team of solely trans people. These bills would effectively prevent students from accessing ways to grow collectively with their peers through a team experience.

Media surrounding trans sports bills nearly always focuses on trans women and femmes, using fears that they are threats to cis women. However, in 2016, a coalition of over 200 sexual assault and domestic violence organizers released a statement that trans-inclusive laws and policies have not coincided with a rise in violence against cisgender people. Transgender and gender-expansive people are not threats, they simply want to live their lives. However, violence against the transgender and gender-expansive community is widespread and deadly. BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) transgender individuals face extraordinarily high rates of murder, sexual assault, attacks, and harassment. According to the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey, nearly 1 in 4 transgender students in Wisconsin have been

attacked in school because of their gender. If these bills are passed, trans youth will be singled out, and be further at risk of these attacks.

As a cisgender athlete who has played with and against both transgender and gender-expansive athletes, the experience is no different than when playing against solely cisgender athletes. There are always going to be different levels of competitiveness and athleticism in sports, but transgender and gender-expansive youth do not have advantages in sports: Dr. Eric Vilain a pediatrician and geneticist who studies sex differences in athletes, says there are no good faith reasons to limit transgender women's participation in sports, especially at the high school level. Villain has advised both the International Olympic Committee and the NCAA, and says these laws generally aren't based on scientific evidence. Rather, talent and training can be more important factors. In my experience, the contrast between different player's abilities is what creates a great playing environment and pushes other players to work harder and thrive in their sport. With feeling comfortable playing your sport comes passion, and the passion that all youth (whether cisgender, trans, or gender-expansive) exhibit leads to a bigger sense of community and connection between players. For trans and gender-expansive youth, these bills would not only be harmful to their sense of self, but it would also take away many opportunities for them to be a part of a supportive community. If AB 195 & 196, SB 322 & 323 are passed, transgender, gender-expansive, and cisgender athletes alike will all suffer from the consequences. Please vote "no" on these bills.

To the members of the committee.

My name is Mark Nessel. I'm 54 years old. I'm a straight, cis-gender single father of a nine year old daughter and an eleven year old son. Both my kids are cis-gender. I have a nine year old transgender nephew, but he lives in Illinois, he won't be directly impacted by what's under discussion today – AB 195 and 196.

I took off work today to urge you not to pass these bills.

I've been an athlete my whole life. I've played competitive ice hockey and soccer, I wrestled and ran track, and have been a competitive fighter. I'm a USA Hockey certified youth hockey coach, I coach in my kid's hockey program. I also coach youth soccer and mountain biking.

The benefits I've accrued from playing both individual and team sports are, at this point in my life, too many to list here. As an elementary school kid ice hockey formed the basis of my friendships, helped me become and remain physically fit. It taught me teamwork, the value of effort and practice, how to both win and lose gracefully, and how to compete hard against the other team and then hang out with them at the party after the game.

I'm watching my kids get the benefits of those lessons now.

This bill would result in denying those benefits to some kids. That's unconscionable. Some of you would tell me that you're protecting my daughter from transgender girls or from boys dressed as girls looking to create an advantage for themselves.

Trans girls are girls. They have just as much right to participate in girls sports as my daughter. Boys aren't dressing up as girls to gain some kind of advantage. That's just not happening.

My daughter doesn't need that protection. My daughter can compete with kids of any gender. My daughter has been competing quite successfully with boys her whole life. This bill isn't protecting her, and suggesting that she needs that kind of protection diminishes her abilities as an athlete.

As for the kids this bill impacts the most...

Kids need to play. Transgender kids are kids. This bill takes kids that are already vulnerable and does nothing except increase their isolation. It's not protecting cis kids, it's abusing transgender kids.

I can tell you definitively that my kids, who play in co-ed hockey and soccer, aren't meaningfully aware of the sex or gender of their opponents or their teammates. They only think of those kids as their opponents and their teammates. My son's soccer team has players that are non-binary and players that are gender-fluid. My son knows that about his friends, but it's no more remarkable to him that a teammate is non-binary than it is that another teammate has skin that's darker than his. This isn't political to him, it's playing soccer with his friends. Why would any adult seek to stop kids from playing with their friends?

Please vote against AB195, AB196 as well as SB 322 and 323, as appropriate.

Thank you for hearing my statement.

End Domestic Abuse WI
1400 E Washington Ave., Suite 227
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
(608) 237-3985
jennag@endabusewi.org



To: Members of the Assembly - Committee on Education
Date: May 26th, 2021
From: Jenna Gormal, Director of Public Policy and Systems Change
Re: Opposition of AB 196

Chairperson Thiesfeldt and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition of AB 196. My name is Jenna Gormal, Director of Public Policy and Systems Change, and I represent End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin (End Abuse), the statewide voice for survivors of domestic violence and the membership organization representing local domestic violence victim service providers across Wisconsin's 72 counties.

Transgender youth should have equal access to the benefits of sports participation. Denying young people access to sports, which provides considerable mental and physical health benefits, is abhorrent. Transgender youth face high rates of family rejection, violence, discrimination, and suicidality. In 2015, 77 percent of transgender adults who were out or perceived as transgender while in grades K-12 reported negative experiences at school. These experiences included verbal or physical harassment, physical or sexual assault, or being prevented from dressing in accordance with their gender identity. Since transgender youth often experience severe discrimination and rejection, they often look for validation in an intimate partner. One study showed 50% of transgender individuals were raped or assaulted by a romantic partner. The mere introduction of this legislation compounds upon the marginalization, isolation and violence experienced by our young people and sends a message that they are unwelcome and should fear living in the world as their whole selves.

This legislation also compounds upon existing fears that parents have for their children, which is demonstrated in the below testimony submitted on behalf of a family who does not feel safe publicly identifying themselves due to violence and discrimination that is perpetrated against transgender people:

"We are the proud parents of two strong, brave, and kind daughters. They play, laugh, argue, create, and love each other fiercely. They love digging in the dirt, making art, building with legos, dressing up, jumping on their trampoline, riding their bikes, and taking care of their dog. One of our daughters is transgender and one of our daughters is cisgender. They both deserve to live in a world where neither faces discrimination or exclusion based on gender identity or biological sex. And this proposed bill is a shameful act of discrimination and exclusion: any attempt to exclude certain people is bullying. Those of you involved in the creation and proposal of this bill should be ashamed of yourselves. You are

perpetuating violence against children. To the trans youth and trans community, we say this: we will never stop fighting for your rights. We are tireless. We will not be stopped.”

This testimony beautifully illustrates the life of two young girls living in Wisconsin and corrects the narrative that to oppose this legislation is sexist. This bill does not do anything to protect women and girls – it actively harms them. Trans girls are girls. Trans women are women.

We must not allow children to be attacked and targeted like this. Please oppose this unnecessary and harmful legislation and allow young people to live and be who they are.

If you have any questions about End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin’s position on this issue, please contact me at 608.237.3985 or jennag@endabusewi.org.

Trans Athletes Deserve a Chance

Written and submitted by Jason Soules May 26th, 2021

My name is Jason Soules and I am 35 year old transgender man who also happens to be an educator in this state and strongly oppose the unnecessary banning of trans athletes. I'm here to tell you that doing something to solve a small problem, while ignoring the creation of a much larger one is irresponsible and our students deserve better. Teachers are trained to always adapt or modify plans for the individual needs of each student as best they can. Oftentimes it's really hard to be ready to adapt, but it gives the most students the best chance at succeeding. Sometimes something unfair will come up during a group activity and the teacher must find a solution to that problem and that solution is never that a part of the class should be left out. Banning thousands of kids from a chance at even participating in many activities that their peers are able to freely participate in is the epitome of **exclusion**. We simply should never exclude kids, especially for things they cannot control.

Some folks are caught in the assumption that every single match between trans and cis girls across every sport is inherently unfair. Rather, I argue that banning thousands of young children from any and all sports, regardless of their specific physical circumstance and individual situation IS unfair. The most basic of science tells us that born males have a physical advantage over born females. The most advanced science tells us that hormone blockers, replacement therapy, the time the person began their transition, genetics and so many other factors also have a great impact on whether or not someone has maintained this assumed advantage. This isn't a basic issue with basic scientific answers. It's incredibly advanced and each situation has its own set of circumstances we must consider.

Not only science, but statistics and relevance matter. The number of relevant instances in Wisconsin schools and sports is miniscule compared to the number of trans youth that would be unfairly disqualified from even participating. NCAA says less than 1 percent of their athletes

are transgender. They are NOT dominating our sports in Wisconsin. Jumping straight to banning athletes, especially young children, is lazy when we should be looking for *compromise* and *inclusion*. ***I ask you, is it possible that trans people exist that have no physical advantage due to their born gender? If yes, how is banning them from participation fair?*** How does this bill account for individuals who are not trans and are unhappy when their gender comes into question by an opposing team? How will we be confirming athletes' genders? What if an effort to save a hypothetical athletic career actually means ending many already existing athletic careers? There are too many questions and variables for all encompassing bans.

Lastly, if your support for this ban comes simply from your own belief that trans people are not really trans and therefore have no right to transition, let alone compete, then that is a different debate entirely. AB195 and AB196 are specifically proposing we legally exclude a group of athletes based on presumed advantages, whether they exist or not. The bills require the discrimination of an entire population of people simply due to their gender identity, regardless of their ability to prove having no advantage in many cases and often having a willingness to adjust their medical treatment to help ensure fairness. These bans are the easy way out for those who want the issue to just go away quickly, while these bans are a painful reality for those actually affected by them. Transgender people don't want an unfair advantage. They just want to be allowed to compete fairly, too. Let's find better solutions for our state and all of its athletes.

It won't be easy, but it will be fair.

Isn't that what this is about after all?

Jason Soules
Eau Claire, WI

Host of podcast, "Allow Me to Translate"
www.allowmetotranslate.com

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I am a homeowner in Madison, WI and the proud mom of three children. One of my kids graduated from a Madison high school recently. My youngest is homeschooled.

One of my kids is non-binary, one is gender fluid and the other is cisgender female identifying.

I wish this to show my direct opposition to the incredibly harmful bills being presented to stop trans children from participating in school sports.

Thank you.

Ophelia Bailly
Madison
608-957-2103

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Marianne Matt, my pronouns are she/her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I personally feel strongly about trans inclusion in sports as a former high school athlete and adult athlete. Being able to play a sport enables individuals to better understand themselves, better understand how they work on a team, and learn to collaborate in different and stressful situations. These are life skills that should not be denied to any human.

As a young athlete in middle school I was lucky to be included on the basketball team despite the fact that I was not a skilled player. The team building and camaraderie helped me to form an identity that I still carry today.

As an adult, I had the privilege of playing a full-contact team sport with all types of women. Transgender women were just one of the groups of people with whom I played and there was never a situation where I felt unequal in terms of size or strength.

The transgender teammates, friends, and acquaintances I have are really important to my life and they also deserve to be treated the same as any other

human in this country. If we purport that we are all created equal in the United States and that we all have the right to the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness, this extends to all our citizens no matter how they identify their gender. Humans are humans; children are children and should be allowed to live as they identify and play sports with those whom they identify.
Stop the hate. Start embracing love.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote **NO** on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Marianne Matt
4925 Spaanem Ave
Madison, WI 53716

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Amanda Hoffman, and I have been a Madison, Wisconsin resident for 6 years. Trans people have been sharing that they need support in fighting discrimination.

Children's lives are on the line, which is why I am fighting these bills. I am a volunteer for The Trevor Project, which runs national hotlines for LGBTQA+ youth in crisis. This work is meaningful because life is hard for trans youth - we hear from trans voices that it is not being trans that hurts, but living in a transphobic society. In a national study, 40% of transgender adults reported having made a suicide attempt. 92% of these individuals reported having attempted suicide before the age of 25.

Children's lives are on the line. It's hard to want to keep living in a world that tells you that you are dangerous and disgusting.

Amanda Hoffman
1005 Oakland Ave
Madison, WI 53711

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

As a female, Christian, and former NCAA Division One athlete, I Strongly Oppose the legislation proposed to ban transgender athletes from competition at any level.

Darby Puglielli
Rutledge St
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

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To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Kelly Hilyard, my pronouns are she/her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I am a cis-gendered former two sport college athlete. I would like to provide support for trans athletes as their teammate, and as someone who understand the nature of competitive sports, the competitiveness of scholarships coming out of high school, and the inclusionary reality of a team sport.

First however I'd like to address "exclusion." One of the top reasons I hear for excluding trans athletes in female sports is about trans athletes taking scholarships and opportunities away from other female athletes. To me a more pressing problem, if exclusion is truly the concern, is to look at what holds back female athletes currently – I'm more concerned about the inequities of sport club fees, the time and transportation needed for youth to access club sports teams in the off-season, the fees during school in season, the huge disparities between suburban schools with money and sporting programs and facilities that rival colleges, with less resource rich schools in cities or low-income areas. The exclusion there is along racial lines in many cases. There are so many young girls who never get the chance to try a sport because they lack access to sports programs for various reasons. As far as scholarships go, most female athletes competing at a level high enough to earn a scholarship could quite frankly out-perform most boys in their grade in their chosen sport. The chances of a trans athlete who is transitioning from male to female during high school does not pose a threat to these women as far as scholarships go any more than other top-performing athletes.

Lastly, sports teach individuals many lessons. The greatest lesson is how to work with other people, together, to achieve a higher skill level. You learn on a team that every single member brings different talents to the court/track. You learn from them all and lift one another up.

Including trans athletes and non-binary athletes is a natural fit into the nature of how sports function. Sports, in their best moments, are incredibly oriented towards inclusion. It does not sit with me well to see so many non-athletes who might not understand this, worried about a zero sum game with inclusion when so many athletes see inclusion of trans athletes as a net positive for sports, teams, and their larger community in general. We all want to belong. We'll all do better when we all belong. I can speak for my teammates on my two college teams as well- we support trans athletes and non-binary competitors at all levels of sports and feel it is important especially during the middle/high school years to let kids be kids and play the game.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Kelly Hilyard
North Avenue
Middleton, WI 53562

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

- Schools across the country know that transgender students, like any student, thrive when they are treated with dignity and respect. School officials shouldn't treat a transgender female student as a girl between 8AM-3PM and then treat her like she's a boy when sports practice starts. It's deeply hurtful to the student and disrupts the school's policy of treating all kids fairly.
 - Let's remember what this is really about: whether LGBTQ people should be treated fairly across all areas of life—or whether they can be unfairly kicked out of a restaurant, denied an apartment, or denied the health care they need, just because of who they are.
- This is a crucial time for ALL children to feel that they BELONG!
- No one deserves to be denied this most basic of human rights!
- As a parent and an educator of children in this group, please consider their feelings and futures!

Thanks,

Cyndi Burleson
SEA
She, her, hers

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Subject: Oppose AB195 and AB196 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply troubled by the decisions our legislators have made to introduce a bill that would limit our transgender students' involvement in athletics. Our job is to ensure equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning environments, not just in the classroom, but in our communities as well. It is our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all our students. I strongly oppose AB196, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on sports teams that aligns with their gender identity.

All students who want to play sports, should have the freedom to play. That includes transgender youth. AB196 & AB195 unfairly attack transgender youth who want the same opportunities as any student their age: To join a team, stay healthy, and make friends. Sports not only provide students with a sense of community and friendship, they also teach students about teamwork, sportsmanship, and leadership; life skills that allow them to become responsible adults. If this legislation is passed, we are telling our trans youth that their identity doesn't matter and we are saying that discrimination is okay. We should be celebrating differences rather than squandering opportunities for our students.

Transgender kids deserve the same opportunities as everyone else. They are our students, neighbors, and family members. They are no different than any other child. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB196.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mercedez Lopez
Madison WI

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Nancy Thome, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. I am a member of the Baraboo School Board and chair the Policy Committee, but the opinions expressed in this written testimony are my own. I am not authorized to speak for the full school board.

Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

Trans inclusion in sports is very important because self-harm, suicide ideation, and suicide occur amongst trans adolescents at a much higher rate than amongst the general adolescent population.

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2020/?section=Introduction>

The best way to lower these rates amongst trans adolescents is to show them acceptance and compassion, not to exclude them from one of the most important adolescent extra-curricular activities, sports, or to require them to play on a team based on the gender they were assigned at birth.

Although the Baraboo School District is a small, rural district, we were one of the earliest school districts in the state to adopt an inclusive transgender bathroom and locker room policy. We have had no problems.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Nancy Thome
330 13th St.
Baraboo, WI 53913

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I'm writing today as a female athlete who has benefitted from Title IX and as the mother of an elementary-age girl who has and will likely continue to participate in sports. And on both our behalf, I say: don't do this in our name. AB 195 and 196 do not protect us and, more importantly, we do not need protection. We welcome the opportunity to play alongside and compete with trans women and girls. As my second-grader knows, the purpose of sports is to have fun, learn healthy skills for competition, develop as a team player, and move our bodies in healthy ways. We both also like winning and getting recognition for our skills. Competing with trans female athletes doesn't take that away. But even if it did, we wouldn't rather #LetKidsPlay. We certainly don't need legislation that pretends to protect us but actually harms our trans teammates and competitors.

Christa Olson
Fox Avenue
Madison, WI 53711

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Megan Allen, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

Kids learn a lot of important life lessons in sports: leadership, confidence, self-respect, and what it means to be part of a team. When we tell transgender girls that they can't play girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches.

It can be hard to understand what it means to be transgender, especially if you've never met a transgender person. And it's common to have questions at first. But we can all agree that transgender kids should be treated with dignity and respect, just like everyone else.

Local schools across the nation are already creating policies that protect transgender youth and ensure a level playing field for all students—and they're working. Banning transgender youth from playing sports undermines those local efforts.

Transgender kids want the opportunity to play sports for the same reason other kids do: to be a part of a team where they feel like they belong. We shouldn't discriminate against kids and ban them from playing because they're transgender.

Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Megan Allen
(MMSD teacher)
Ardmore Dr.
Madison, WI 53713

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

We are both Family Medicine physicians. We believe that all children and young adults should be allowed to benefit from athletic activities according to the gender they identify with.

The fun, fitness, and friendships that develop during athletic competition should be available to every person.

This bill excludes participation and incorrectly implies that athletic ability is based on the biological sex determination at birth.

This bill has far reaching discriminatory implications for many individuals. This includes those born with ambiguous genitalia (1/1000 live births). It opens the door against people with chromosomal variations, polycystic ovary syndrome, precocious puberty, and other hormonal, genetic conditions as well as for those on certain necessary medications.

Instead of opening this door to expensive laboratory tests, chromosomal analysis, and embarrassing examinations it is most fair for everyone to simply allow our youth to enjoy athletic competition according to the gender that they identify with.

Sincerely,
Len Markman DO

Leslie Markman DO
Tomorrow River Road
Amherst WI 54406

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Kyle Walsh, and I am an administrator here in Madison. My pronouns are he and him, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender. There really should be no further explanation needed.

As an educator and leader in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am committed to ensuring inclusive environments for all- that includes you if you were to ever come to my building. My values of belonging, racial and social justice and equity, and belonging, are always at the core of whatever I do.

Students learn a lot of important lessons in life, and if you choose to dehumanize HUMAN BEINGS, they will be learning a lesson from you- one that they really shouldn't have to. If you haven't met someone who identifies as transgender, I recommend you do before taking a stance/vote on this issue. You would be undermining all of the work we are doing if you ban transgender youth from playing sports on the team that they identify with. These are children. Trans children are children. Trans girls are girls. Trans boys are boys. They deserve to live without fear and as their authentic selves. Isn't that what you would want?

I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kyle Walsh
Educator, MMSD

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Peggy Maertz, my pronouns are She, Her, Hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As a parent of a child in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my support for all children. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

Transgender Athletes are allowed to complete in the Olympics and at other Higher Level Sports in the US. To ban transgender children from sports is an outrage and unfair. There is no fact to the belief that transgender youth do better in sports than cisgender children when competing against each other. The attacks on transgender youth have nothing to do with fairness in sports and it is all about discrimination and forcing a once person's personal and political views on others.

All students who want to play sports, should have the freedom to play. That includes transgender youth.

AB196 & AB195 unfairly attack transgender youth who want the same opportunities as any student their age: To join a team, stay healthy, and make friends.

Transgender youth athletes are under attack. Anti-LGBTQ lawmakers are unfairly targeting transgender youth who deserve the same sports opportunities as anyone their age. Put an end to this attack by taking supportive action today.

Three reasons why students, including transgender students, love to play sports: Teamwork, Sportsmanship, and Leadership. These are all important lessons which kids learn in sports. We want all kinds to be able to have these opportunities

Anti-LGBTQ lawmakers are waging an unfair attack on transgender athletes. AB196 and AB195 are trying to exclude transgender youth from playing sports.

All students want to play on a team, exercise and make friends. When we tell transgender girls that they can't participate in girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches.

As a nation, we decided long ago that discrimination is wrong and that everyone should have the same opportunities to succeed in life—and that should include transgender youth.

Schools across the country know that transgender students, like any student, thrive when they are treated with dignity and respect. School officials shouldn't treat a transgender female student as a girl

between 8AM-3PM and then treat her like she's a boy when sports practice starts. It's deeply hurtful to the student and disrupts the school's policy of treating all kids fairly.

We can celebrate girls' sports and protect transgender youth from discrimination, making sure that all young people can access the lessons and opportunities that sports afford.

Let's remember what this is really about: whether LGBTQ people should be treated fairly across all areas of life—or whether they can be unfairly kicked out of a restaurant, denied an apartment, or denied the health care they need, just because of who they are.

There's a reason those who are trying to ban transgender kids from playing sports keep repeating the same two or three examples over and over again. That's because, in a country of more than 300 million people, these are the only examples they have of transgender girls who have won these kinds of titles. The fact is, 99.9% of kids play sports without ever competing at any kind of elite level. And the overwhelming majority of transgender youth, like most kids, just want to play and participate in everyday school sports with their peers.

We all want to ensure a level playing field in sports. The truth is, every child is different in different ways—which is why some girls excel at gymnastics, others at volleyball, some at basketball, and others at soccer. The overwhelming majority of transgender youth, like most kids, don't even play at elite levels. They just want to play everyday school sports and participate with their peers.

My daughters best friend of 18 years is transgender. They deserve to be able to play in any sport if they so desire.

I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Peggy Maertz

Committee on Education

Chelsea Mikkelson

Madison Metropolitan School District-Whitehorse Middle School

May 26, 2021

Subject: Oppose AB195 and AB196 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

I am a 7th grade special education teacher who has worked at the Madison Metropolitan School District for 17 years. In that time, I have seen a wonderful shift towards inclusion and understanding of others. I myself am committed in my practice to work to be anti racist and focus on social justice issues so that future generations of people can create and maintain systems that are equitable and inclusive.

I strongly oppose AB 196, which would eliminate a student's right to participate in the sport that aligns with their gender identity. No person chooses their gender as some ignorant people might think. I have met, worked with, and taught people who are transgender and...they're just like cis gender people, in that, they are humans with the same basic wants and needs and should be treated as such. Can you imagine a transgender girl who dresses and presents as a girl being forced to play on a male team? Can you imagine a transgender boy who dresses and presents as a boy being forced to play on a girls team? How will schools check a person's birth gender? I shudder at this thought. Let's not attack transgender youth and make their lives harder than they already are. Statistics show time and time again that people who are transgender are more likely to be homeless, suffer depression, and die by suicide and it's partly because of harmful policies such as this. Why would schools make their lives even harder? Schools cannot sanction discrimination.

Please be on the right side of history. Currently, we are teaching the kids about WWII and how Hitler wanted a master race that fit into very narrow guidelines. I cannot help but draw connections to this legislation. Transgender children are children. Let's treat them with the same respect that all humans deserve and give them the opportunity to play sports on teams that follow their gender identification. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Committee on Education

Samantha Head
(352) 281-0862
154 N Lakewood Gardens Lane
Madison, WI 53704

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Subject: Oppose AB195 and AB196 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

As a school social worker in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I **strongly** oppose AB195 and AB196, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

AB195 and AB196 are inhumane bills to their core. They unfairly attack transgender youth who want the same opportunities as any student their age: to join a team, stay healthy, and make friends. A national survey by GLSEN has found that "75% of transgender youth feel unsafe at school, and those who are able to persevere had significantly lower GPAs, were more likely to miss school out of concern for their safety, and were less likely to plan on continuing their education." The figures tell us a very scary story. They show that trans youth are more likely to miss school, have depressive symptoms, and experience suicidal ideation.

As a school social worker, I am charged with connecting youth and families with resources, many of which tend to be mental health related. I see first hand the impact that feeling unsafe, unwanted, and unvalued does to youth. These bills create an unsafe and unwelcoming environment for all students. They send the message that we do not care about trans youth and that we don't care that they are negatively impacted by simply living their truth and being who they are. As a nation, we decided long ago that discrimination is wrong and that everyone should have the same opportunities to succeed in life—and that should include transgender youth.

All students who want to play sports, should have the freedom to play.

Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB196. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Samantha (Sami) Head, MSW
she/her/hers

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I am writing in support of transgendered children in general, and more specifically, I am writing to support allowing transgendered children to participate in school sports that match their gender identity. I am a retired high school counselor and worked for 16 years in a rural area in Central Wisconsin, and although I did not have any transgendered students that I was aware of, I fully understand the pain and suffering which students who are 'different' in any way face at the hands of their peers, and in some cases, even at the hands of teachers. I did know some students who were bullied and teased due to the perception of their being homosexual, and the trauma the children experience is a tragedy. There is absolutely nothing that seems more horrifying to me than to codify the persecution of children, stripping them of the rights of a childhood that they deserve. Playing sports with one's peers is paramount to the healthy growth of a child if they choose to participate. For them to be ostracized in the law simply because their gender identity doesn't match the gender they were assigned at birth is setting them up for unhealthy development.

Thank you for your consideration of my support. I hope that Wisconsin returns to its State Motto: Forward!

Sincerely,

Terry L. Major-Holliday
Woodland Circle
Waupaca, WI 54981

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Kathryn Weisbeck, my pronouns are she/her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

Given the costs of higher education, and the fact that so many scholarships depend on participation in sports to demonstrate a well-rounded experience, then this act, which bars or discourages trans children from competing in sports, will cut individuals off from academic opportunities in the future. Given the vast underemployment of trans people across the United States, there is no excuse for curtailing anyone's future due to gender. Trans children deserve the opportunity to participate in sports, and if those children are to perform their best, they need to be in an environment where they can put their energy towards their performance, instead of pretending to be something they're not.

Transgender and nonbinary children are beautiful individuals who are vulnerable in ways that cisgender children are not. To make their childhood more difficult by placing them in alienating circumstances, or forcing them to choose between a sport they love and an authentic expression of self, is unconscionable. It is discriminatory, and it goes against existing science. According to Dr. Joanna Harper of Loughborough University, the average difference in performance between male and female long-distance runners is 10-12%. Incidentally, her study found that those differences are negligible with hormone therapy; trans women tend to run 10% slower after one year on estrogen. Given that the science does not back this measure, I am forced to conclude that the "Protect Women in Sports Act" does nothing to protect women, and is in fact a means to discriminate against transgender children for daring to live openly.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Weisbeck

E Capitol Drive #6
Hartland, WI 53029

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Regarding transgender athletes in Wisconsin

My name is Kathleen Caylor, and I am the mother of a transgender teenager. We live in Pulaski, Wisconsin. My son is graduating in a couple weeks from Pulaski High School and will be attending UW-Green Bay in the fall. He has been a gymnast since he was about two years old, competing in girls gymnastics for many years, then in boys gymnastics after he transitioned. His team was Air Force Gymnastics Academy in Green Bay, as USA Gymnastics affiliated club.

My son was born with female genitals. We raised him as a cis-gender girl through middle school, and although I dressed him in pink dresses and lace as a toddler, looking back we always knew that he wasn't a typical girl. So we gave up on the "girl clothes" and allowed our child to be a tomboy, or so we thought. But that changed in middle school when puberty began. Then the dysphoria really set in. Thankfully, our child was able to do some online research and found out about other transgender people, and he identified with their stories immediately. He was brave enough to come out to us (his parents), and we did our best to listen, learn, and support our child.

And there was a lot of learning involved.

First of all, we learned that being transgender is not a choice. It is a deeply ingrained sense of self that cannot be changed by wearing certain clothes or using certain pronouns. Pretending it does not exist does not make it go away. Pretending it doesn't exist has consequences though. It increases the odds that the child in question will become depressed and suicidal. With community support, transgender kids are just as happy and well adjusted as their peers. Without community support, their lives can be

hellish. Playing on a sports team that aligns with their gender, not their birth sex, can be a lifeline to these children. It gives them some community support.

I had grown up devoutly Catholic, and that's how I raised my children. I was taught that God created male and female, and nothing in between was mentioned. I have since learned that this is not the whole truth. Intersex babies exist! There are dozens of medical conditions that produce children who have varying degrees of male characteristics, female characteristics, or both, or neither. Did you know that doctors used to perform surgeries on newborn babies to make intersex genitals look more male or more female, without giving the baby any voice in choosing which sex they really are? These surgeries continue today in many places. Do you know what Complete Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome is? Do you know what effects it has? If you don't, you need to learn about it, because it completely disproves the idea that all children can be classified at birth as either male or female. A child with CAIS has XY chromosomes, therefore male. But the same child has no penis at birth, therefore female. But they have internal testes, therefore male. But you wouldn't know this until puberty (or lack of puberty), so for their childhood everyone will think they are a girl, because that's what they looked like at birth. Bottom line? Not all children can be neatly classified as male or female at birth! Many do not realize who they really are until puberty! Trying to classify them at birth as either or male or female is unreasonable, and it should not prevent them from participating in sports as the gender that they know they are.

For any legislators discussing this issue as a matter of religious freedom in regards to Christianity, I refer you to this verse in the Bible. "For **there are** eunuchs who **were born that way**, and **there are** eunuchs who **have been** made eunuchs by others—and **there are** those who choose to live like eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:12. Even the Bible recognizes that not all babies are born as typical male or typical female. Some are born eunuchs, which is the word that the translators came up with to denote a person born with atypical sex or gender characteristics.

These people exist. They have always existed. It is only because our society rejects them that causes them to hide who they truly are. That must end.

One of the talking points I hear from proponents of this legislation is that children born with male genitals have an advantage in sports due to having higher levels of testosterone. May I remind everyone that this testosterone boost does not occur until puberty. Pre-pubescent children are completely unaffected by this. And today, many male-to-female transgender children, the ones that you are so worried about, are able to access hormone blockers before going through puberty (with the help of trained medical professionals). There is no testosterone advantage among these girls!

You've proposed this legislation to prevent boys from identifying as girls in order to gain an advantage in sporting events. Has this been a problem? I've lived in Wisconsin all my life, and I've raised my own family here, and I've yet to hear about a boy who wants to be on a girls sports team for that reason. This legislation is pretending that a problem exists where it doesn't. This legislation only does harm, it does not help.

So how can I address your fear of boys wanting to join girls sports teams to gain an unfair advantage? Let me assure you that being transgender isn't a simple matter of waking up one morning and deciding to be transgender. When a child says they are transgender, the first thing that happens is that they are evaluated by a counselor to see if their feelings are persistent, consistent, and insistent over time, that

the feelings aren't a passing phase, and the feelings are too strong to be ignored. If appropriate, the child is allowed to transition socially, without medical intervention, in order to test out how they feel when living as the gender not assigned at birth. This is a matter of clothing, hairstyle, and pronouns: things that are easily reversible if the child is not actually transgender. Hormone therapy comes after that, and surgical intervention is possible only after the individual has been living as their true gender for years. And then there are the legal hoops to jump through to get a name change and to get gender markers changed on official documents. The effort that transgender kids and their families go through is evidence of how serious this is. It's not a capricious decision.

Kids who know that they are transgender and are willing to prove it to the world should not be prevented from participating on sports teams with other kids of the same gender. Their counselors and medical team know who they are, and their counselors and medical team can make a decision about who is truly transgender. Let them guide our public schools regarding who should be eligible to participate on which sports teams.

Legislators in Madison don't know who my son is, they cannot evaluate his status of being transgender, and it is wrong for them to write laws that harm him under the pretense of protecting girls from a non-existent threat.

This bill should be rejected.

Kathleen Caylor
Rolling Hill Dr
Pulaski, WI 54162

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

As a school teacher in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I **strongly** oppose AB195 and AB196, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

AB195 and AB196 are inhumane bills to their core. They unfairly attack transgender youth who want the same opportunities as any student their age: to join a team, stay healthy, and make friends. A national survey by GLSEN has found that "75% of transgender youth feel unsafe at school, and those who are able to persevere had significantly lower GPAs, were more likely to miss school out of concern for their safety, and were less likely to plan on continuing their education." The figures tell us a very scary story. They show that trans youth are more likely to miss school, have depressive symptoms, and experience suicidal ideation.

As a school teacher, I am charged with connecting youth and families with resources, many of which tend to be mental health related. I see first hand the impact that feeling unsafe, unwanted, and unvalued does to youth. These bills create an unsafe and unwelcoming environment for all students. They send the message that we do not care about trans youth and that we don't care that they are negatively impacted by simply living their truth and being who they are. As a nation, we decided long ago that discrimination is wrong and that everyone should have the same opportunities to succeed in life—and that should include transgender youth.

All students who want to play sports, should have the freedom to play.

Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB196.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Ashley Hong

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Hello, my name is Molly Berg (she/they) and I'm a Wisconsin resident from Hubertus (near Holy Hill), in Washington County. I've lived in this state my whole life and I vote in every election. I desperately wish I could be there in person today so you could hear how much I mean it when I say **LEAVE OUR KIDS ALONE**.

Childhood is exactly when you should get to figure out who you are and who you want to be. I'm sorry no one taught these people acceptance, kindness, and empathy. None of us have the right to tell people who they "should be" or who they should be friends with.

There is **no valid reason** to meddle with which child can play on what sports team. There is even less reason to propose a separate but "equal" team for trans kids to play on. This is plain old bigotry with a fancy new hat on and those supporting these measures are acting out of (deeply depressing, and honestly? embarrassing) ignorance and fear. Do you even know a single trans person? Have you sat and really thought about what your gender means to you? Have you thought about what it would mean if you were forced into a life that isn't yours?

The idea that any of this is to "protect women's sports" is laughable for a whole bunch of reasons, the largest of which is that *you can't protect women's sports by keeping women out of them*. It's a very gross thing to start requiring everyone (especially children who DON'T GET PAID) to submit to hormone level testing to simply play on a team with their peers. Oh look, it's the bigotry again.

Please. Don't make it harder to be trans or questioning. The depression and suicide rates are already so high. The misinformation so prevalent. We too often become outcast, homeless, desperate, alone.

Don't give people more examples of hate to follow. You can make a difference in the lives of young, sweet people that will last. Let them play with their friends, their peers. Let them play on the team that best aligns with their gender. Let them be who they are.

Thank you.

Molly Berg
Highland Ave.
Hubertus, WI 53033

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Hello,

I am writing a letter on behalf of my daughter who was a student athlete. My daughter participated in swimming for nine years, during that time she competed against many individuals and enjoyed competing against the athlete and accepted the challenge. She took pride in competing against the competitors and not their gender. Gender did not determine who her teammates were or how she challenged herself. She swam hard and fast for herself, for her improvement. She lost to better swimmers and beat better swimmers too. Gender did not take that away from her.

School sports are often overtaken by parents' agendas and lose sight of what sports should be about, team, community, friendships, exercise and competition. I feel strongly that sports should not become politicized, with parents agendas.

I know my daughter enjoyed her time swimming and is open and accepting of all her teammates and competitors. She would not want to see anyone being isolated and not able to swim with her friends due to other parents deciding who should be part of her team, based entirely on their ideas of male and female only sports.

Please keep politics out of school athletics.

Tracey L Soyring
S 8th St
Mount Horeb WI, 5572

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Matt Klein and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I fail to understand why anyone would want to prevent children from playing sports. Being able to have fun with friends as a child is important to growth, development, and well-being. You learn community, you learn friendships, you learn teamwork, you have fun. This shouldn't be denied to any child.

As someone abused as a child through denial of friends and through isolation, it is particularly horrifying to see adults spending their finite hours on this planet toying with legislation stating children should be harmed. You need to protect every child you govern for.

Thank you for your time. I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,
Matthias Klein
Eau Claire, WI

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Sara Govier, my pronouns are she/her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and non-binary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

Sports are an avenue by which children gain confidence in themselves and also learn the importance of teamwork and coming together for the collective good. Singling children out for their gender identity not only shatters their confidence but also deprives them of the opportunity to form important relationships. As someone with a non-binary sibling, I've seen firsthand the value sports can provide in creating a safe and welcoming place for transgender athletes to thrive when approached from a place of inclusivity.

Growing up I played multiple sports, though I was never overly athletic. But I will never forget the day in basketball practice in middle school when I took a charge from the best player on our team. Not only did I surprise our coach, but I surprised myself. That one play in a random, meaningless practice gave me more confidence than anything had before. Transgender children deserve the same opportunity.

Transgender and non-binary children are not a threat to other athletes. They are certainly not a threat to girls' and women's sports. My two daughters would be better served by actual support of girls' and women's sports than attempting to solve a problem that doesn't exist. Given the inequity between boys' and girls' supports, it is unconscionable to believe that boys would choose to identify as transgender in order to

compete in girls' sports. These bills are nothing more than discrimination against children and will cause more harm for a group of children who are already marginalized. These bills will teach other children that segregation is acceptable in Wisconsin schools, and the effects will be long-lasting.

Youth sports are an invaluable tool to build confidence in children and help them form lasting relationships with their peers. These bills will prevent trans youth from feeling safe enough to come out and will deny them the opportunity to gain these critical life skills. These bills will cause irreparable harm to many children across the state of Wisconsin.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Sara Govier
Eagles Way
Muskego, WI 53150

May 26, 2021

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Allison Peret-DeRosia, my pronouns are she/her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As a parent, I feel strongly that my own child and any other child should be allowed to live as their most authentic self. Placing restrictions on students that prevent them from living out their lives in a way that aligns with their gender identity does more harm than good. And there is no sound scientific basis for arguments that claim transgendered athletes would be at some sort of biological advantage. The only reasons to deny trans athletes the ability to play on the team that fits their gender are based in fear and prejudice. We are better than that, and we need to be better for the sake of our children.

As someone with trans friends and an educator who has worked with trans youth, I am passionate about this cause. I've seen the mental health issues that can result from the type of discrimination transgendered individuals face daily. Don't let these anti-trans bills pass and enable further hardships for trans youth just trying to enjoy sports with their peers.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Allison Peret-DeRosia

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I am writing to you to strongly oppose any and all anti-trans legislation brought forth in the state of Wisconsin.

As an amazing friend of mine so eloquently stated, and I 100% agree with them:

"The truth of the matter is that these bills are designed to effectively legislate trans folks out of public life and to make it harder for them to simply exist. They're based on fear and fallacy and junk science, and they conveniently ignore the simple truth--shown over and over again in actual peer-reviewed studies--that when kids of all genders and identities feel safe and supported and encouraged to be themselves, they thrive. In particular, rates of anxiety, depression and suicidal ideation plummet when transgender kids have supportive families and communities. In other words, trans kids and adults don't have increased rates of mental health issues because they're trans, but instead because they are so often ostracized and alienated and unsafe.

It comes down to one simple truth: Legislation like AB 195 & 196 and SB 322 & 323 is harmful to children. Let me say that again: This legislation is HARMFUL TO CHILDREN. It seeks to solve a problem that doesn't exist, and it will only lead to trauma and exclusion. Laws like this will be used to challenge cis children as well as trans ones; And what message does that send to our children, that we should judge their merits based on their identity instead of their achievements, that we should only allow some of them access to normal kid things like sports?"

In conclusion, I am an ally for the transgender community along with the LGBTQ+ community. Why? Because the identity that any person chooses is none of my business, nor does it affect me in a negative way. There is no need for any legislation limiting or banning a group or groups of people based on gender identity, that is discrimination and should not be tolerated anywhere in this nation, let alone in our wonderful state of Wisconsin. This legislation is based on lack of education and fear of the unknown.

I strongly urge you to stand against the passing of any such legislation now, and in the future.

In solidarity,
Allison Deppe

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I am writing as a WI resident, parent, and teacher, to strongly voice my opposition to the anti-trans athlete bill (AB196). This bill is supposedly a solution to a non-existent problem. Ciswomen and cisgirls are not feeling that their own athletic prowess is somehow diminished by sharing their sport with transwomen and transgirls. Women are women -- cis or trans -- and deserve to be supported and welcomed into all spaces. This proposed legislation would ostracize transwomen and transgirls by creating the false impression that they are not women and girls. Additionally, it is statistically shown that when humans are not accepted for who they are, they are subject to much higher rates of anxiety, depression, and suicide. Honor ALL women and girls by rejecting this bill.

Sincerely,

Amanda Gail Crim

Dunning St Madison, WI 53704

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Alexandra Aulisi, my pronouns are she/her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

All children should be allowed to participate in sports and I've learned from my trans friends how important it is to be seen as their correct gender so denying children the right to play on their correctly gendered team is cruel and psychologically damaging.

It's shameful that, in this day and age, anyone would believe that legislating a human being's identity is acceptable. Do the right thing and consider the pain you'll be inflicting on an entire population as well as the precedent you'll be setting. I beg you to have empathy and not be on the wrong side of history. Let your legacy be one of love, not of hate.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Aulisi
Rusk St
Madison, 53704

Assembly Committee on Education
Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities
Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families
Wisconsin State Capitol
2 E Main St.
Madison, WI 53703

RE: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322 and 323

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Katy Schweitz, and I write today as a mother of three Wisconsin students and an LGBTQ+ ally. I strongly oppose both anti-trans athlete bills (AB195, AB196 and SB322 & SB323) because students deserve to feel welcomed, supported, and able to thrive in Wisconsin's educational institutions.

My opposition stems from the following key points:

- 1) Consider that 1% of youth identify as transgender. From that pool, only a fraction identify as trans women and an even smaller amount play sports. That representatives have authored bills affecting such a miniscule sliver of students seems like a ploy to distract from the real issues of our time--a teacher shortage, achievement gaps, and poverty, to name a few.
- 2) The notion that Title IX exists to protect biological females from trans females is completely misguided and shows how time and the current "culture war" can distort even the best intentions. Invoking Title IX in this capacity only serves to reinforce harmful stereotypes about ALL women -- that we need protection and are not to be trusted if we are too good, too fast, too strong, etc.
- 3) The bills define sex as that "assigned at birth by a physician." This oversimplification ignores that a person's sex is comprised of multiple biological characteristics that may or may not align with what is generally deemed "typical."

Transgender youth are among our most vulnerable students. Please acknowledge the complexities these students face and create safe and affirming public spaces.

Sincerely,

Katy Schweitz
Chestnut Crest
Cottage Grove, WI 53527

May 24, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Cabell Gathman, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I am a cisgender woman and the mother of three young children, including two cisgender girls whose “protection” is the supposed goal of legislation like this. When I told my 9-year-old and 7-year-old about these bills, they asked me to tell the legislature, “No, we want trans kids to play with us.” My 9-year-old daughter, Andromeda, loves soccer. Before the pandemic, she came home multiple days a week talking about strategy she’d developed playing with her friends. All children and adolescents deserve the experience of building community on sports teams and learning fair play and respect—fundamental values that are perverted by this call to mandate discrimination and segregation in Wisconsin schools. By demanding that schools single out vulnerable transgender students, isolating them from their peer groups and legitimizing the bullying and harassment that so many already experience (Connolly et al. 2016), this legislation represents a major threat to the moral and civic development of all children, cis and trans.

Additionally, it is foolish to believe that these laws will not become tools to exclude any child, including many cisgender children, whose gender expression and literal human bodies do not fit incredibly narrow and regressive standards of “femininity.” My cisgender 9-year-old prefers clothing from the boys’ department at Kohl’s and might be labeled a “tomboy”; she is also tall for her age. In fact, while the average height for men as a group is indeed greater than the average height for women, there is a great deal of overlap, and height, like other physical attributes, varies widely for all kinds of reasons, including the simple luck of the genetic draw. Young girls in the United States are already bombarded with damaging messages about “ideal female bodies.” Laws like these ensure that many girls will be singled out and ordered to prove their gender because someone (A coach? A staff member? A competitor’s parent?) thinks their individual body is “wrong.”

In the aftermath of cases like Larry Nassar's serial sexual assaults of child athletes, it should also be obvious that teaching children that they must submit to broad adult scrutiny of their bodies, with a transparent focus on their genitals and the threat of exclusion if their bodies are deemed somehow "wrong," creates opportunities for adult predators to more easily target and manipulate victims. These laws further fundamentally deny the autonomy of children in describing their own bodies and experiences, fostering a culture of silence in which victims are likely to assume they will not be believed even if they come forward. Transgender children, like, transgender adults, are vastly more likely than cisgender children to be the victims of sexual abuse and assault, but all children will be endangered if these bills are made into law. As a parent and an educator, I think this particular impact of anti-trans legislation merits much greater public attention than it seems to have so far elicited.

In addition to my personal experience as a parent, I hold a PhD in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where since 2014, I have taught both introductory and upper-level courses in LGBTQ issues and the sociology of medicine. I have worked closely with several faculty members in the medical school to provide the most up-to-date research evidence and standards for clinical practice to my students. Experts agree: For transgender children and adolescents, community support is literally a matter of life and death. The terrifyingly high relative risk of suicidality and self-harm for trans youth compared to their cisgender peers is significantly reduced, and in some cases, completely eliminated, by acceptance and inclusion (Connolly et al. 2016). Like bathroom access, the right to participate fully in athletics both meets a fundamental human need and serves as a broader signal that trans kids' humanity is recognized and embraced, that they can reasonably expect the same safety and care that all children deserve in our education system. Even after accounting for individual victimization, protection of trans people's ability to participate fully in public life in these ways has been shown to reduce suicidality (Seelman 2016).

Experts also agree that laws seeking, like these, to police sex and gender are divorced from basic scientific knowledge. The natural variation that exists among bodies within a single gender or sex category is much greater than many laypeople realize. The endocrine disorder polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS), for example, is estimated to affect as many as 10% of all women (Wolf et al. 2018). Women with PCOS naturally produce levels of androgens such as testosterone that are higher than the "female average," and in fact overlap with levels that would not be remarkable for men, yet even the most conservative members of this body would be unlikely to argue that a girl with PCOS should be barred from her high school's teams. Additionally, there is no clear evidence that testosterone even correlates with athletic performance. Yet too many arguments against the participation of trans girls in athletics rest on unscientific folk theories about hormones, and further reinforce the damaging message that "real girls" must meet a standard of skinniness and hairlessness that is unrealistic for most women, let alone those with PCOS.

It is not only hormone levels that frequently do not meet lay expectations of "typical" femininity or masculinity. Over the past few years, intersex activists have brought increased attention to ethical issues with the treatment of infants born with "ambiguous genitals." However, still few laypeople appreciate just how diverse and common intersex traits, involving some atypical combination of chromosomes, gonads, genitals, hormones, and secondary sex characteristics like body hair and fat distribution, actually are. The vast majority of intersex people learn about their intersex traits in adolescence or adulthood, if they ever learn about them at all. To introduce requirements for any kind of "gender testing" for young athletes would certainly result in a sharp increase in children and adolescents receiving what should be a neutral and private medical diagnosis under cruelly traumatic and stigmatizing circumstances.

“Fairness” in athletics is, honestly, a sticky subject. Any coach can tell you that the high school athletes who receive college scholarships and, in a handful of cases, go on to professional careers almost always benefit from early training that in most sports is the direct result of significant monetary investment by parents and other family members. We don’t require children with wealthy families to form their own separate athletic teams. Although residential segregation and its impact on school district demographics produce a similar outcome, no one would suggest that it is unfair for those teams to compete against teams from poor districts, or that their members should not take pride in their championship wins. And of course, money alone cannot buy gold medals. Human variety is nearly infinite, and the most gifted athletes obviously build, with hard work and training, on “natural ability” that is simply the luck of the draw. Most trans girls will not become elite athletes just as the vast majority of children don’t, and there is nothing about being transgender that confers particular advantage.

What we can say about “fairness” is that it is unfair and wrong to exclude children from competition because of the way they were born—the inherent qualities that, in fact, contribute to their individuality, and often lead them to take an interest in a particular sport, as a tall teenager might decide to give basketball or track a try. We can say that children deserve a chance to work hard and measure their performance against their history and personal bests, enjoying all the things that their bodies can do and forming a healthy appreciation for function over apparent conformity with heavily edited media images. We can say that children should learn to support and uplift their peers, celebrating both the things they have in common and the differences that make us, as a community, strong. None of these goals are served by these discriminatory pieces of legislation, and I urge you to oppose them.

Sincerely,

E. Cabell Hankinson Gathman, PhD

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Wolf, Wendy M., Rachel A. Wattick, Olivia N. Kinkade, and Melissa D. Olfert. 2018. “Geographical Prevalence of Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome As Determined by Region and Race/Ethnicity.” *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 15 (11): 2589.

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I'm a cis white woman who grew up in the Madison area. And I am writing in opposition to the bills Rep. Dittrich has introduced in the name of feminism and equality. I was an elite runner in high school, holding several school records and participating in three national championships in track and field. I even went on to participate on the track team at the University of Minnesota for year in college. And later, in graduate school, I took up roller derby, where I would eventually skate with and against trans women. So though I am not trans myself, these experiences have given me quite a bit of insight into the issue at hand and I would like to share my thoughts.

First off, the assertions of Dittrich that girls are being robbed of opportunities is false. In this state, in my former sport, there are no state records currently held by any trans runners. There is a compilation of the top fifty performances in state history in all conditions at all meets and not a single one has been a trans athlete.

The assertion that girls are being robbed of scholarship opportunities is also false. Students may have better exposure to recruiters at the end of the day, but in the end it was performance metrics and times that mattered. Some of my teammates were walk on redshirts like myself, despite being state finalists or eve champions.

Then there is the claim that competing against trans women and girls is somehow dangerous. Not only has that been untrue in my experience, but it's also a grossly disparaging claim. Given that current state and NCAA policy require a year of hormone therapy prior to competition, I can say that this is adequate. In roller derby I skated against cis men, cis women, trans men, and trans women, many in varying stages of transition. And can say without a doubt that I never felt any degree of unfairness or dominance regarding the trans women. I played for 4 years and never felt unsafe skating around them and never witnessed a higher occurrence of injuries as a result of their participation.

I'm writing in support of them because they were wonderful teammates and it opened my eyes to the struggles they face. This bill is claiming equity and fairness but how is excluding someone who is already following NCAA guidelines fair? There are myriad ways this will would potentially hurt cis girls as well.

The NCAA has already warned states banning college trans athletes from competition that it would be a violation of Title IX and bar certain competitions and tournaments from those states. Providing fewer opportunities or excess recourses for programs to travel elsewhere. Considering that most college teams do not have a single trans athlete, that would strain the resources of ever program in the state. At a time when roster spots are already being cut to save funds due to covid related budget deficits.

As well, there is also room to weaponize the bill. If a competitor's gender is questioned anonymously by a parent trying to earn their daughter a roster spot or bar someone from a meet, they could be forced to undergo invasive medical inspections to prove their womanhood. How would this not be traumatic for children?

If I had lost a meet back in the day to a trans girl, I hope my parents would have given me the wisdom to see that it's not all about winning. Plenty of my competitors had better genes, better training, or could afford private coaching and it only made me push harder. Sports are never completely level. But excluding an already marginalized group so some girls could potentially earn a couple extra medals is not equality. I'm thankful for the ability to bond with my trans teammates and know their struggles. Please do not take these opportunities away from them.

Sincerely,
Alida Mau

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Hello, my name is Naomi Dubin, and my pronouns are she/her. I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. It is a violation of students' rights to ban them from playing sports with the team that aligns with their gender, regardless of whether they are cisgender, transgender, or nonbinary.

Just yesterday evening, I accompanied one of my 7th grade students to the MMSD high school all-city track meet. This is a student who has her head down in every class, hasn't completed any assignments this quarter, and is currently failing. Her only interest at this time is athletics. Throughout the 3+ hours we spent together at the meet, I saw a return of the happy and lighthearted student I used to know when she was in 6th grade, and she spent a great deal of time talking with one of the assistant coaches and asking questions about athletics. By the end of the meet, she understood what grades she needs to earn to be allowed to compete, how to train and cross-train, where to buy running shoes, and which track events she'd be interested in learning about. She's committed to being a member of her high school track team for all 4 years she attends, and understands the academic commitments she will need to make to fulfill that dream. And with the right supports, this cisgender female student will be able to accomplish all of those goals.

However - what if this student were nonbinary or transgender? Athletics are quite literally her lifeline - would we, in good conscious and with legal permission, deny the lifeline that athletics can provide for students who struggle with mental health issues, self-worth, engagement in school, and peer interaction? *Especially* for students who are nonbinary or transgender, these concerns are all amplified, and athletics can be a powerful positive force

in these students' lives.

Transgender youth athletes are under attack. Anti-LGBTQ lawmakers are unfairly targeting transgender youth who deserve the same sports opportunities as anyone their age. Put an end to this attack by taking supportive action today. There's a reason those who are trying to ban transgender kids from playing sports keep repeating the same two or three examples over and over again. That's because, in a country of more than 300 million people, these are the only examples they have of transgender girls who have won these kinds of titles. The fact is, 99.9% of kids play sports without ever competing at any kind of elite level. And the overwhelming majority of transgender youth, like most kids, just want to play and participate in everyday school sports with their peers.

Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

With concern -

Naomi Dubin, CCC-SLP (she/her/hers)
Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Madison Metropolitan School District

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Michele Smith, I am a resident of Oconomowoc, and I am writing to oppose the anti-trans bill AB195 and AB196 and to urge you to withdraw the bill. This level of bias and discrimination you have put your time and energy towards is shameful. Passing a bill that takes away the opportunity for transgender youth to participate in sports will have devastating impacts on the trans community. Participation in sports should teach our youth the value and importance of inclusion and acceptance, not rejection of those who already face so much adversity. If this bill passes, this discriminatory bill will be part of your damaging legacy in leadership. You are teaching our communities to turn their backs on some of the most vulnerable youth among us. You have been elected to serve ALL of your district, transgender individuals included. Supporting this bill shows a lack of compassion, empathy, and an inability to serve your whole community. Please withdraw this anti-trans bill.

Thank you,

Michele Smith
Cherry Street
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Allison Frankfother
Madison Metropolitan School District
(815) 590 9399 5622
Irongate Drive Madison, WI 53716
Wednesday,

To all on the committee regarding AB195 and AB196,

As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply troubled by the decisions our legislators have made to introduce a bill that would limit transgender students' involvement in athletics. Our jobs as educators and as lawmakers is to ensure equitable, inclusive, and welcoming environments, not just in the classroom, but in our communities as well. It is our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory opportunities to live, work, and play for all our youth. I strongly oppose the bills being heard in the Assembly today, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on sports teams that align with their gender identity.

All students who want to play sports should have the freedom to play. That includes transgender youth. AB196 & AB195 unfairly attack transgender youth who want the same opportunities as any student their age: to join a team, build self-confidence, learn a skill, stay healthy, and make friends. Sports not only provide students with a sense of community and friendship, they also teach students about teamwork, sportsmanship, and leadership -- life skills that allow them to become responsible, happy adults. If this legislation is passed, we are telling

our trans youth that their identity doesn't matter, and we are saying that discrimination is okay. We should be celebrating differences rather than depriving our students of opportunities.

Furthermore, the belief that transgender youth participating in a gendered sports team is harmful to cisgender youth on that team, particularly cisgender girls, is unfounded in science and based only on extrapolated and anecdotal evidence. It is far more harmful to transgender youth to tell them their gender identity excludes them from participating in a sport. It is also incredibly harmful to all children and young adults to suggest that an individual with male body parts and chromosomes has an inherent advantage over any individual with female body parts and chromosomes. As adults with a responsibility to strengthen and build up our community and youth, the last thing we need to spend our time on is creating policies that serve only to make our beautiful, wonderful, intelligent youth feel less than, othered, and excluded.

Transgender kids and young adults deserve the same opportunities as everyone else. They are our students, neighbors, and family members. They are no different than any other child. Trans girls are girls. Trans boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics at all levels of education, from kindergarten to college and beyond. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB195/AB196. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Allison Frankfother



Commissioners

Tony Snell, Chair
Martha Collins, Vice Chair
Mayhoua Moua
Nathan Guequierre

Jennifer Bennett
Jessica Boling
William Crowley

May 24, 2021

Subject: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323

Dear Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education –

On behalf of the City of Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission, I write to you with strong concerns about legislation currently being considered in Wisconsin. We stand in firm opposition to any legislation targeting the LGBTQ+ community.

Four bills being considered now in Wisconsin would pose harm to transgender young people. Participation in athletics is a vital part of an individual's well-being, including their physical, social, and emotional health. Major medical associations, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Medicine, recognize that supporting transgender youth is critical to their health and well-being.

It is clear that these bills, at their core, are discriminatory. They would violate Title IX of federal education law prohibiting sex discrimination and rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court while further marginalizing vulnerable students. Passing any one of these bills would undeniably harm young people who are simply trying to excel and enjoy their personal success and lead to major challenges for Wisconsin, including severe economic hardships and a tarnished image on the national platform.

Anti-LGBTQ legislation has no place in Wisconsin. We ask you to stand with us and strongly urge you to reject these punitive bills. Let us, instead, work on making Wisconsin a more welcoming and affirming state for all people. At the end of the day, everyone should be treated with dignity and respect – and that includes transgender youth.

Sincerely,

Tony Snell
Commissioner and Chair
He/Him



Commissioners

Tony Snell, Chair

Martha Collins, Vice Chair

Mayhoua Moua

Nathan Guequierre

Jennifer Bennett

Jessica Boling

William Crowley

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I urge the opposition of these bills! Transgender and non-binary people need to be protected and fully included. It is extremely hurtful to trans folks when they are treated with fear and excluded from participation.

Susan Kaye
Upham St
Madison WI
53704

Committee on Education
Committee on Colleges and Universities

Allison Shuda 4310 Maher Ave. Madison, WI 53716
Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Subject: Oppose AB195 and AB196 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I strongly oppose AB196, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

AB196 unfairly attacks transgender youth who want the same opportunities as any student their age: to join a team, stay healthy, and make friends. There are all kinds of benefits to youth sports. As a child I had so much fun playing sports, and I also gained leadership skills and learned how to work with others towards a goal. All students who want to play sports should have the freedom to play, including transgender youth.

Trans girls are girls. Trans girls deserve to live authentically and they deserve to have the same opportunities to participate in sports as cisgender girls. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB196. Thank you for this opportunity to submit this written statement.

May 26th, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Paul Jenkins and I oppose AB195, AB196 and SB322, SB323. I live at 6018 Meadowood Dr in Madison, WI.

I can't imagine living in a state where trans kids are not welcome to participate in youth sports. Youth sports provide inclusion, team building, and a place for many kids to feel a sense of belonging. Excluding trans kids from those opportunities wouldn't just be cruel, it would be dangerous. Cutting off ways for trans children to participate in sports as equals with their peers is just another way to communicate to trans children that they can never be who they want in the world. When our societal and governmental structures tell children they can't be themselves and simply participate in activities they enjoy, we eliminate hope of a future and cause unimaginable damage to countless children and families. These children grow up to be our future.

These bills are cruel and dangerous to trans kids. Please don't move these bills forward.

Thanks,
Paul Jenkins

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

As a parent of two children in MMMSD, I am writing to oppose this legislation. My children were both assigned female at birth, and I believe they identify as such. I see no need for this legislation to in any way protect them, and in fact I think legislation such as this cheapens their worth as individuals.

gender, as we have come to realize, is a fluid concept. We want sex to be more black and white, but as a medical doctor I can attest that it doesn't always work that way. hormone levels obviously vary between "male" and "female" levels, but there is substancial within-sex vairation as well. athletic ability also comes from many other factors beyond individual control. this attempt to determine who is able to compete with whom amounts to an attempt at discrimination while doing nothing to actually empower "women".

Our transgender students deserve to be empowered, protected, and given the same rights as others in school and sports. These bills effectively disenfranchise an entire group of people who are already disenfranchised and struggling to fit in. Let that not be done in the name of protecting my daughters.

Amy Fothergill

Written Testimony of John Greene In Opposition to
AB 195, AB 196, SB 322 and SB 323

May 26, 2021

Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities
Assembly Committee on Education
Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I am a resident of Madison, Wisconsin, and I write to oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

One thing probably all can agree upon is that participation in sports can be immensely valuable in supporting physical and mental health, and provides important social benefits. To deprive children and young people of this opportunity should require an overwhelming, compelling reason. I see none that would justify this legislation.

When I first heard of these bills, I assumed they were part of the viral, national campaign to convince people that transgender female athletes were going to take over competitive women's sports. Then I learned that neither the NCAA nor the Olympics bars transgender athletes. If the highest levels of competition can allow transgender athletes, why can't our schools find a way?

Moreover, the bills are clearly not targeted at unfair competition in competitive sports. They would cover low-level, recreational, non-tryout leagues, including intramural and club sports. So if a middle school has an after-school, intramural girls basketball or volleyball league—just for fun, fitness and social engagement—*by law* a transgender girl is barred from participating.

At this level, the law is not about fair competition in any meaningful sense; it is just plain cruel, mean and discriminatory. I urge you to try to put yourself in the position of the child that simply wants to play recreational sports with their friends, but who is a legal outcast under this proposed legislation. How much damage are we willing to inflict upon children just because of who they are?

The same is true at the university level. Are we actually going to legally prohibit an 18-year-old freshman student who simply wants to play recreational sports with their dorm intramural team? Why not take it a step further and ban college students who played high school sports from playing on intramural teams in college, since it is “not fair” to the student new to a sport to compete against someone highly skilled?

Anyone experienced with youth sports knows that there are always children with natural advantages that could be deemed unfair (the super-tall basketball player, the child who because of an early birthday or a late start to school is substantially older than the other participants, etc.). Are the committees now going to turn to micro-managing competition among schoolchildren to ensure the maximum possible fairness, through height, weight, age restrictions, etc.? Unlikely, and for good reasons that apply here too.

The open-ended causes of action the legislation creates show that the aim of the legislation is not simply to protect competition. Anyone “who is deprived of the opportunity to participate in an athletic sport or on an athletic team or who suffers any direct or indirect harm as the result of a violation” can sue the educational institution. The breadth of this provision is immense.

Imagine a girl who wants to try basketball as a high school freshman and signs up for the lowest freshman squad, but is denied a spot because it is full (and because she is unskilled at the sport). If a transgender athlete with only slightly better skills makes the team, we now have the basis for a lawsuit. But what if the girl who gets the last available spot is unusually tall, making her more appealing to the coach. Should we now allow the parents to sue the school because being tall is “unfair?”

Even worse, suppose both children are on a low-level freshman team, and the coach distributes minutes evenly among the players. Can a player bring a lawsuit because absent the transgender athlete they would have gotten to play a few more minutes (since there would be one less player on the team to share time)? The legislation says yes.

And worse still, even if a school and team are totally supportive of the transgender athlete playing, under the proposed law a player *from another team* could sue the other school claiming they suffered harm by having to compete against a team with a transgender player. What would their harm be? It is easy to imagine the student (or more likely, their parents) claiming that mingling with transgender children violated their sensibilities or principles and caused distress. This may sound ridiculous, but it is what this legislation allows. Do we really want to provide a legal remedy for people to

express their discriminatory bias against transgender children, thereby sanctioning and perhaps even encouraging such thinking? I would hope not.

In sum, the proposed legislation appears to be a solution in search of a problem. As the NCAA and Olympics show, any issues with competition at high levels can be addressed without shunning transgender athletes. And at lower competitive or recreational levels, we ought not be targeting transgender children for exclusion at all. On the contrary, we should be doing the opposite, by promoting their health and well-being rather than degrading it. Unfortunately, this proposed legislation is not a victimless endeavor. I urge the committees to carefully consider the wisdom, fairness and morality of these bills, and to reject them. Just let the kids play.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record. Thank you.

John Greene
Keyes Avenue
Madison, WI 53711

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

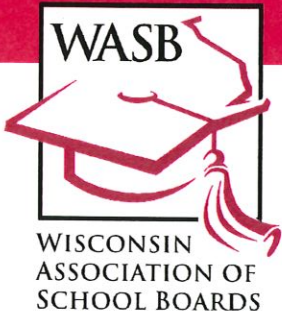
Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Aaron Kaio and I'm a teacher in Madison. I currently teach at Shabazz City High School where we have several trans students. In my experience many trans students already have daily struggles with their identities. They face uncomfortable questions, difficult home lives and the possibility of public ridicule and harm. Bills that we create for our state should focus on defending our most vulnerable and I would put my trans students in this category. Many trans youth need support, protection, and mentorship. I think a trans youth making the decision to join a sports team or any extracurricular activity should be celebrated, their road is inherently more difficult because of how society judges their decisions so their willingness to be vulnerable and brave should be valued. I'm not even sure what is being protected here is it a nostalgia for high school sports? Is it to protect female cisgender athletes opportunities for scholarships? I think exclusion is never the right answer.

Thank you,

Aaron Kaio

Elmside Blvd
Madison, WI 53704



122 W. WASHINGTON AVENUE, MADISON, WI 53703
PHONE: 608-257-2622 • TOLL-FREE: 877-705-4422
FAX: 608-257-8386 • WEBSITE: WWW.WASB.ORG

JOHN H. ASHLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: Members, Assembly Committee on Education
FROM: Dan Rossmiller, Government Relations Director
RE: OPPOSITION to Assembly Bill 196, relating to designating athletic sports and teams operated or sponsored by public schools based on the sex of the participants
DATE: May 26, 2021

We are providing testimony in opposition to this bill for three main reasons. Our opposition to the bill stems primarily from a concern that the bill, as introduced, will likely create new legal concerns for schools.

1. This bill, in its present form, negates both local control and regulation by the WIAA in favor of rigid a “one size fits all” approach imposed on local school boards and districts by the state.
2. This bill contains highly unusual, if not unprecedented, provisions that could encourage students and parents to sue their local school districts.
3. This bill, should it pass in its present form, would place school districts in the difficult and untenable position of having to choose between following a state law directive or the current interpretation of federal antidiscrimination statutes by the federal agencies charged with enforcing those federal statutes.

Local Control. Based on a resolution adopted by WASB members, the WASB subscribes to the belief that the prime purpose of locally elected school boards is to conceive and implement school programs designed to serve the local students, consistent with local needs, state goals and national programs and that accountability shall reside with the local school districts.

A number of Wisconsin school boards have adopted district policies specifically addressing transgender status of students, including gender identify, gender nonconformity and gender expression. These policies address a variety of topics including discrimination, bullying and harassment, the names and pronouns to be used, how students are to be referred to in official school records and student privacy concerns, participation in interscholastic athletics and restroom and locker room accessibility.

In these school districts, school boards and communities have sought to accommodate the needs of individual students as well as the values of their community. Working on a case-by-case basis, these boards have been able to develop reasonable local policies that work for their circumstances, and most importantly, for their students.

WIAA Control. In addition, the regulatory body for interscholastic athletics in Wisconsin—the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletics Association (WIAA)—has a longstanding, rigorous policy and a process in place for determining eligibility for participation of transgender students which seems to have worked without controversy until the introduction of this bill.

The WIAA was among the first state associations in the country to develop a transgender participation rule with the help of the doctors who serve on the WIAA's sport medical advisory committee. While the requirements of that rule do allow access to an opportunity, which is required by federal law, those requirements permit access **only** after leveling the competitive playing field by requiring hormone suppression therapy treatment for a full year and/or sex reassignment surgery. Per the WIAA, even if a transgender male student meets the WIAA requirements, it is ultimately up to the local school board to determine whether that student may compete on a girls team or in a girls sporting event.

The WIAA's Executive Director Dave Anderson indicates that over the past 12 years he has been in that position, and spanning roughly 1.5 million varsity contests, "not once has the WIAA heard from a member school or from a parent that a transgender male student has taken a medal, a place-finish, or an opportunity away from any other student." To date, "there have been zero requests of the WIAA to ban or further restrict opportunities for transgender students."

Mr. Anderson added, "The WIAA already has rules in place that prevent boys from playing on girls teams. In fact, the WIAA has gone to court more than once to protect opportunities for female athletes, and it has consistently won."

In short, the message is that the combination of the WIAA's rule and local control is working to protect opportunities for girls in Wisconsin.

While the WIAA is firm that it will not allow a boy to take a girl's opportunity, it has also communicated that "it does not seek to further marginalize or alienate a vulnerable child or adolescent at a challenging and difficult time in their life." We find that position commendable.

Provisions in this Bill Could Encourage Students and Parents to Sue Their Local School Districts. The bill would permit a pupil who is deprived of the opportunity to participate in an athletic sport or on an athletic team or who suffers any direct or indirect harm as the result of school district not following the provisions of the bill to bring a cause of action against the district for injunctive relief, damages, and any other relief available under law

Such a provision is virtually unheard of in our state statutes governing school districts and school operations. This is especially troubling given that this bill places school boards in a situation where they risk a potential federal lawsuit by complying with state law as imposed by this bill and risk a potential state lawsuit under the provisions of this bill by complying with federal agency interpretations of federal law. All lawsuits, whether they have legal merit or not, must be defended. That costs money, which is better spent educating students.

This Bill Puts School Boards and Districts in a Difficult Position. This bill would essentially force a school district to limit a transgender male student's participation options in a way that would likely be seen by current federal authorities as discriminating against that transgender student.

While this bill would change state law, it would not, and indeed cannot, change federal law. The relevant federal law is Title IX. Under Title IX, "[n]o person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal Financial assistance." 20 U.S. C. §1681(a).

The U.S. Department of Justice recently circulated a memo to federal agencies stating its interpretation of the application of the U.S. Supreme Court's June 2020 decision in [Bostock v. Clayton County](#) to Title IX:

"After considering the text of Title IX, Supreme Court caselaw, and developing jurisprudence in this area, the Division has determined that the best reading of Title IX's prohibition on discrimination "on the basis of sex" is that it includes discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation."

Title IX creates a private cause of action that entitles parents and guardians of students to sue a school district for monetary damages on the basis that the school district has discriminated against a student on the basis of sex.

Should this bill pass, a school board and district would face a choice to comply with the provisions of this bill, and risk being sued under federal law or to not follow state law and risk being sued by a student or the parent or guardian of a student.

In addition, the Office of Civil Rights (or OCR) within the U.S. Department of Education, which enforces civil rights laws, such as Title IX, in public schools is authorized to bring enforcement actions under Title IX against school districts. At various times in the recent past, the OCR has been very active in targeting its resources on transgender students' claims of discrimination.

In past enforcement actions against school districts, the OCR has made it clear that it has the power not only to bring enforcement actions against school districts but to come after all federal funds received by a district found to be in violation of Title IX.

It is important to note that:

- Nothing in this bill would protect or insulate a school district against becoming the subject of a lawsuit brought under either of these two legal avenues.
- Nothing in this bill would indemnify a school district for the costs of defending such a lawsuit or enforcement action.
- Nothing in this bill would indemnify a school district against any damages that might be awarded in such a lawsuit or against the loss of federal funding in an enforcement action such as is described above.
- Nothing in this bill would require the state Attorney General or the state Department of Justice to defend a school district sued on the basis of discrimination on the basis of sex under a Title IX action.

In short, we think this bill creates legal concerns for school district, including creating a bad precedent of expressly authorizing students and their parents to sue school districts.

For the reasons cited above, the WASB *opposes* Assembly Bill 196.



To: Assembly Committee on Education
From: Bob Baxter, Executive Director, Wisconsin Education Association Council
Date: May 26, 2021
RE: Assembly Bill 196

**Testimony on Assembly Bill 196
Wisconsin Education Association Council**

The educators of the Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC) stand in opposition of Assembly Bill 196.

As WEAC President Ron Martin, a high school volleyball coach and eighth-grade teacher has said, “Teachers are here for all of our students, including transgender youth. The social, mental and physical benefits of school athletics benefit all pupils and WEAC demands access for all students. There is no room in our schools for hate and discrimination.”

The educator-members of WEAC work directly with students, every day. We welcome students into our public schools with open arms – no matter what. Common sense and research prove that the lessons students learn in sports, including leadership, confidence, self-respect and teamwork, benefit the individual, school and greater community.

It can be difficult to understand what it means to be transgender and have questions, but it is not difficult to understand that policies signaling out an already marginalized population of young people can only inflict damage. Public school educators accept all students who come into our classrooms, and we share the common goal of helping them become good citizens by supporting them academically, socially and emotionally.

All students should be treated with dignity and respect. All students deserve safe and welcoming schools, extending to athletics and other extracurricular activities. Preventing transgender and nonbinary youth from existing athletic opportunities sends a dangerous message that they are not welcome or wanted and harms their physical and emotional wellbeing.

The data show that the incidence of transgender youth who play sports or express interest in playing sports in Wisconsin is remarkably low yet the potential for harm in targeting transgender children is high. Results from the Youth Risk Behavior State and Local Survey (YRBS) from 15 states found that between 2017-2019 44 percent of transgender youth, versus 16 percent of cisgender youth, reported considering suicide in the previous year. Transgender youth, particularly trans youth of color, are among some of the most vulnerable members of our school communities due to the rampant and daily transphobia they encounter on a personal level. If it became law this bill would add to that harm on a state sanctioned policy level.

Lawmakers who care about the students, including their mental health, should not vote in favor of Assembly Bill 196.

**Ron Martin, President
Bob Baxter, Executive Director**

Rep. Murphy, State Sen. André Jacque, Sen. Johnson
Rep. Hesselbein, Rep. Pope

VIA HAND DELIVERY ON 5/26/21

**RE: Opposition to Anti-Trans Persons in Sports Bills:
322 and SB 323**

May 26, 2021

Dear State Representatives:

As taxpaying state residents of Wisconsin, we urge you to drop your support of the set of bills that creates unnecessary discrimination, hate, unfairness and outright hurt to the LGBTQ+ student bodies of Wisconsin. Competition sports and extra-curricular activities in general **MUST** be inclusive of ALL students, indiscriminately.

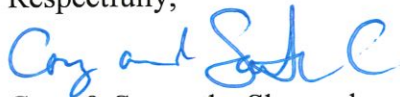
We are the proud parents of several competition athletic students and have a middle-school non-binary athlete that just finished the track season participating in the 100M dash, 100M hurdles and the long jump. They had the best experience and look forward to a long sports career. Being born non-binary, our child has already suffered many forms of discrimination that has led to unnecessary physical and emotional harms. They are also a person of color, so these experiences are heightened. School sports and martial arts as an extra-curricular activity has given them a therapeutic inclusive opportunity to advance themselves physically and emotionally alongside their peers. All children should have the right to be a part of a team - a part of their school, a valid member of the student body. There is no room for this proposed "second-class student" experience wrought with oppression.

There is **NO NEED** for these bills. Where is the Wisconsin data to support the premise that female athletes have been slighted in school sports? In fact, the bills pose solutions that actually **CREATE** problems. These bills will outright enhance discrimination and non-inclusion, leading to mental health disorders and suicide.


Do not be on the wrong side of history. These bills take Wisconsin back in time to a "separate but equal" social setting that we all know never worked. These bills are outright discriminatory and harmful to our student body youth and effectively deny them the opportunity to perform alongside of their friends and colleagues - costing them all of those benefits their peers will have secured. Move forward with education, cultural awareness and acceptance. Promote LGBTQ+ athletes and encourage their better well-being at all levels.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide our written comments and formal objection to AB 195, SB 322 and SB 323.

Respectfully,



Cory & Samantha Skenandore
1310 Manassas Trail
Madison, WI 53718
sgreendeer@yahoo.com



George Stacy
W6210 Chickadee Lane
Greenwood, WI 544437
George.stacy@ho-chunk.com



AB 195, SB

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Matthew Nicholas and Jessica Elaine Fox 4318 Keating Ter
Madison, WI 53711

Written Testimony Against AB195 and AB196

This testimony is written by Matthew and Jessica Fox and we are parents of a five-year-old girl who was assigned male at birth. At three and a half, she told us that she was a girl. Prior to that, getting her to wear "boy style" clothing resulted in tantrums and tears. Once we let her dress as a girl, all the tantrums went away, and it was like we had a new, happier child. She has completely socially transitioned, which means that we let her wear her hair long, dress in "girl style" clothes, and call her by a more feminine name. She socially transitioned so early that she has only grown up as a girl and does not consider herself to be transgender. If you ask her, she is "just a girl." She is young, so she might change her mind in the future about her gender. However, her therapist and doctors say this is unlikely, and there is also the chance that she will not change her mind.

If she does not change her mind, and continues to live as a girl, then passing AB195 and AB196 will only serve to discriminate against her. She will never remember a time when she was considered a boy. Therefore, passing these bills will only serve to keep her from playing sports with kids of her gender. Why would she agree to play on a boys' team if she has never been treated as a boy? Some may think this would serve to help her change her mind and de-transition. More likely, this will just be evidence to her that her community thinks that there is something wrong with her. There are other transgender people who feel differently, but our daughter does not want to be and would never choose to be transgender. If she could have been assigned female at birth, that is what she would have chosen.

Merriam-Webster defines discrimination as "the act, practice, or an instance of discriminating categorically rather than individually." If our daughter continues to maintain her social transition as a girl, she will never go through male puberty. Her physicality, how she is socialized, and how she wants to be treated will have been entirely female, for as long as she can remember. Therefore, she would have absolutely no physical advantage over girls who were assigned female at birth of the same age. How is it not discrimination then, that she should be excluded from sports categorically, because of how she was born?

Even girls or women who have gone through male puberty are just as valid as our daughter. There has been no evidence that any transgender girls or women are entering female sports teams to gain an advantage. They just want the same thing as our daughter would want, to be treated in the same way as anyone else who is the same gender as them. For those lawmakers reading this who are male, it would be like making you play on women's sports teams and having a law that insists that you are actually female, in spite of your physicality, or how you want to dress or act like a man.

Please vote against bills AB 195 and AB 196. Do not pass these bills to discriminate against our daughter and many other girls and women. This is the time for all of us in Wisconsin to show that we will not stand for discrimination of any kind.

Thank you for your attention, Matthew and Jessica Fox

G R E T A
NEUBAUER ★

66TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Written Testimony for the Assembly Committee on Education

Assembly Bill 196

May 26, 2021

Chair Thiesfeldt and Committee Members:

I know it is less common for us to testify as legislators on a bill that we did not author. I came here to speak today because this bill is personal to me, it's personal to my family and it's personal to my community.

As some of you may know, my sister is transgender, as are a number of people close to me. It hurts to think about the message they will receive when they read about today's hearing in the news. I've seen what my sister's journey has looked like, pretty up close and personal, as a trans woman. She encounters challenges every day that cisgendered people – people who identify as the gender we were assigned at birth – don't ever need to think about. She carries fear of the threat of violence with her every day because of the hate and bigotry many people feel towards the trans community.

Bills like AB 196 are damaging particularly because they feed that hate for women like my sister. They "other" our youth when we should be loving them for having the courage to live their truth.

But this is not just about my family. I would also like to share the words of a longtime friend of mine, a trans physician in training, in response to anti-trans bills being proposed around the country, including this one: "It brings me a deep sense of grief for kids who have already done the hard and tender work of understanding their identities, and who have bravely opened up to their families and physicians, only to be attacked by their elected representatives."

It is challenging for me to understand why this bill is before this committee and the Wisconsin State Legislature at all today. I, like all of you, speak to my constituents regularly. I read their letters and reports from every call my office takes. I can say, with certainty, that I certainly don't have constituents calling me telling me that they feel they've been personally impacted by trans athletes being allowed to participate in sports that match their gender.

G R E T A
NEUBAUER★

66TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

This is a bill looking for a problem that does not exist. It is an attempt to codify discrimination based on gender identity. It is a bill that tells our trans kids, teens, youth, friends, and neighbors of all ages that they are not welcome here in Wisconsin.

I know we are often at odds in this body, but I don't believe any of you wake up in the morning, jump out of bed and think, "How can I make life harder for young people, for vulnerable members of our community, for athletes who just want to compete alongside their peers?" But that is exactly what this bill does.

I ask that if Assembly Bill 196 comes before you for a vote in this committee, you vote no. Join me in telling our trans youth that they are seen, they are loved and valued, and that they deserve every opportunity to live a full and meaningful life in our state.

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

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To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Natalie Syty, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I am currently an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District. As an educator and someone with a front row seat to see how children are impacted by adult decisions, I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322 and SB 323. Eliminating students' rights to engage in opportunities all children should have access to is both extremely hurtful and unnecessary. For those students who engage in sports, the experience is invaluable. Team sports played a huge role in my own youth and to think this experience could be taken from some children simply based on who they are is heartbreaking. All children should have the same opportunity to be fully included in their communities. No child should be excluded or have to change who they are to be accepted and participate.

For the above reasons and more, I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for your time, consideration and for this opportunity to testify.

Natalie Syty,
School Psychologist @ MMSD

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

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Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Megan Siebert (she/her). I teach music in the Madison Metro School District and my teaching upholds values of equity and belonging in our communities. I work closely with LGBTQ+ kids in my classroom and extracurricular activities. Because I support all my students and their identities, I am testifying in strong opposition to AB196 which takes away a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

In my work with transgender and non-binary youth, I notice traits present in all my students: they want to play with their friends and they want to belong. Every child should have the opportunity to fulfill that simple wish, and AB195 and AB196 attempt to exclude them from that childhood experience.

Having been an athlete myself, on a girls' team, I would have had no problem sharing a locker room or playing on a team with a trans girl, or playing against a team that included trans girls. Sports can teach kids leadership, sportsmanship, and teamwork, and to deny transgender students an avenue to that learning is a sign that we as adults have not internalized these lessons.

And that is nothing compared to the lessons we *are* teaching our youth with this type of legislation: that discrimination is allowable, not everyone deserves respect, and it is okay to use children as pawns to deny an entire community of people basic dignity. Because this legislation is just that--an attack meant to deny rights to young people of the LGBTQ+ community who just want to be part of a team and play a game with their friends.

So the real question is: are we going to treat LGBTQ+ people fairly in every area of life, or are we going to ignore the lessons we learned in youth sports? I hope you join me in rejecting AB195 and AB196's hateful attacks on children. Support our students--let them play. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Megan Siebert
Teacher with Madison Metropolitan School District
806 Whispering Pines Way, Fitchburg WI 53713

Subject Line: Oppose AB195, AB196, SB 322, and SB 323 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

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To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Tony Jennaro, my pronouns are he, him, his, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I am a high school educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District at La Follette High School, where I am deeply committed to creating classrooms, schools, and communities that are inclusive of all young people and encourage them to thrive and grow as their full selves. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I also live my personal and professional life proudly as a queer gay man, who has learned so much from my trans siblings, especially the trans youth I have come to know over the years. I hope in whatever small way to lift up their voices and experiences through this testimony today that is in strong opposition to AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which seek to eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

My students from my school's Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) shared with me these important reminders, which I will share with you today:

- Every trans youth should be able to participate in the sport of their choosing. Banning trans youth from sports is discriminatory!
- All trans youth should be able to participate freely in any school activity without harassment, backlash, or discrimination. We believe that biological sex does not inherently correspond to athletic ability. Gender and biological sex are not the same.
- This ban or law is absolutely unnecessary and will cause more harm than good, specifically to trans youth who already experience many forms of oppression and hate in our society.
- If you truly care about the people you represent and believe in human dignity, human rights, and equal treatment under the law, then you must listen to what we and trans youth

are saying. These bills create inequality and foster hate in our state, which goes completely against what we should be teaching young people.

Transgender youth are youth, Trans girls are girls, Trans boys are boys. It's as simple as that. This attack on them serves no purpose other than to marginalize them and create division in our society. This is a political game at the expense of young people who have so much to offer us. The fact that we are even having this debate will increase very real and very harmful prejudice, hate, and discrimination towards Trans folks, putting literal lives at risk. Youth depression and suicide is a pervasive problem in many of our communities and schools (I know it has hit very close to home multiple times in the past several years in my school community). Sadly, we know it is even more of a problem among Trans youth. Our communities are resilient and will fight back your hate, but how many lives will you harm in the process? How much hate are you willing to rain down on young people to achieve your political ends?

I believe Trans youth deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Tony Jennaro

Milwaukee St.
Madison, WI 53704

May 26th 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

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I oppose bills AB195 and AB196 because I'm far more concerned about the mental health of children negatively impacted by this legislation than my children's right to have an "equal playing field." The truth is, my children's playing field WON'T be impacted by the inclusion of their trans friends. In states with inclusive policies, high school girls' participation in sports remained unchanged from 2011 to 2019. In states with exclusive policies, girls' participation has decreased.(citation) In California and Connecticut, which have inclusive policies, girls' sports participation has increased, including by almost 14 percent in California from 2014 to 2020.(citation)

These bills will further erode the safety and inclusion that trans youth need so badly. Transgender youth experience unsafe and unwelcoming environments, and evidence shows that discriminatory school policies only harm them further. GLSEN's 2019 National School Climate Survey found that 1 in 10 LGBTQ youth have been discouraged from playing school sports due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.(citation). More than half of transgender students reported being prevented from using bathrooms and locker rooms that align with their gender identity. LGBTQ youth who had experienced discriminatory policies reported lower self-esteem and school belonging than those who had not, as well as higher rates of depression and school absenteeism.

Every day I teach my children to "fill someone's bucket." To help someone feel seen and valued. Because I know that empathy and accountability to one another is the backbone of a safe community for all. These bills actively dismantle these teachings and I must stand up against them.

Sara Ansell
(MMSD parent of cis kids)

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Eli Rittenhouse, my pronouns are they/them/theirs, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As a non-binary person, I must openly oppose this legislation, which would be incredibly damaging to trans youth if passed. We are given so many messages from such a young age about who we can be, and the limitations placed upon us based on the construct of gender and the sex we're assigned at birth. This legislation would further oppress trans youth, who are already facing bullying, harassment, increased suicidality, increased homelessness, physical and sexual violence, and other threats to their safety. I will excerpt material from The Trevor Project below to further illustrate the seriousness of these issues.

“Transgender youth reported significantly increased rates of depression, suicidality, and victimization compared to their cisgender peers. Notably, in the past year, one in three transgender youth reported attempting suicide, almost one-third reported being a victim of sexual violence, and more than half reported a two-week period of depression.” - The Trevor Project

The statistics shared above are certainly not an exhaustive list of the experiences of trans children, or the challenges they face, but they paint a picture of the very real risks

this community is already facing. I urge you to take these statistics seriously and defend trans children.

Additionally, sports are a great forum for youth to make friends, build community, and build muscle. They can be a great method of catharsis, and a positive outlet for energy. There are so many positive lessons kids can learn from being a part of a team, and no one should be told how or if they are able to participate in activities that enrich their lives.

Please do not pass this harmful legislation, that would put these children at further risk, through preventing their participation and/or making it unsafe for them to participate in activities that should be fun and accessible for all.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Eli (Elizabeth) Rittenhouse
Gifford St
Orfordville WI
53576

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Lilith Pieper, my pronouns are she/her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

Trans children should not be pointedly excluded from sports. An already marginalized group suffering additional scrutiny and segregation from other students based on their gender makes me feel sick.

As a child I was in sports my entire life, being part of the varsity tennis team, running track while younger, and playing soccer with friends. It was one of the only places I learned how to make friends, compete to my fullest, and enjoy myself. I have been in a local co-ed soccer league, and generally, there is not any noticeable difference between the players based on gender, it is almost exclusively based on weight, regular exercise, and drive to win.

The transgender community has had countless attacks on them in recent years, with bills passed that would outlaw children receiving the aid they would need. The more and more increasing amount of physical violence and deaths of trans individuals in our current climate, means we must support and cherish the trans and nonbinary community, and especially the trans and nonbinary youth.

The legislation could be just the first step in a wave of laws that aim to segregate and separate the trans and nonbinary community from the rest. It could initially start with separating the trans

and nonbinary community from sports, then we could have segregated bathrooms, and registrations to prove that you are transgender. It is not something I want to see in a country that is for the free.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.
Sincerely,

Lilith Pieper
Williamson St. Unit 308, Madison, 53703

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Sherie Hohs, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and non-binary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As the LGBTQIA+ Lead in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I have the extraordinary opportunity of supporting transgender and non-binary youth and advocating for their rights to safety and inclusion. I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all people. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

Being an athlete deeply impacted me as a child, and has continued to shape my experience as an adult. Kids learn a lot of important life lessons in sports: leadership, confidence, self-respect, and what it means to be part of a team. When we tell transgender girls that they can't play girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches. Transgender people should be treated with dignity and respect, just like everyone else.

Local schools across the nation are already creating policies that protect transgender youth and ensure a level playing field for all students—and they're working! We've seen this firsthand in

the Madison Metropolitan School District. Banning transgender youth from playing sports undermines those local efforts. Transgender kids want the opportunity to play sports for the same reason other kids do: to be a part of a team where they feel like they belong. We shouldn't discriminate against kids and ban them from playing because they're transgender.

Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony.

Sherie Hohs
LGBTQIA+ Lead, Madison Metropolitan School District
shohs@madison.k12.wi.us / 608.616.9010

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Rachel Kiley, my pronouns are she/her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

In middle school, I played basketball and I was the least skilled player on the court I dreaded my turn on game day, however, I lived for practices and loved my teammates. My coach never left me out of a drill and my teammates gave me plenty of chances to score, even if I couldn't make a basket. Being part of a team was important to me as I navigated middle school, and I want every kid to have that opportunity if they choose it.

As a family nurse practitioner, I know that the evidence-based practice states that children are happier and healthier when their identities are respected and accepted. In a survey by The Trevor Project of over 40,000 LGBTQ individuals age 13-24, over half of those who identified as transgender or nonbinary seriously considered suicide in the 12 months preceding the survey. Support and acceptance from their community decreased that risk. To respect and support our youth, transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender identity.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote NO on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Rachel Kiley
508 E. Lakeview Ave.
Madison, WI 53716

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Kristin Beebe, my pronouns are She/Her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

I feel strongly about trans inclusion in sports because I want all children to have access to sports in the same way my children have been able to participate: freely and in participation with the teams that best align with their gender. The idea that Trans children and non-binary children pose a threat to fairness in competition is nonsense! This idea is predicated on a lack of knowledge about the complexities of gender. A good primer about what actually defines gender can be found here: [Stop Using Phony Science to Justify Transphobia](#)

Looking at birth certificates, or ogling children's genitals to determine their gender and participation in sports is ignorant and wrong.

Sports can be a healthy enterprise for learning teamwork, gaining bodily skill, and reducing stress. All children benefit from access to learning to work in a group, the confidence one can build from training one's body to perform a skill and the wonderful release sports can offer from the tensions of our lives. Trans and non-binary youth often struggle for acceptance, and placing another barrier to their inclusion in the beneficial arena of sports is unnecessarily cruel.

The damage that is wrought by this legislation is real. Our family supports all of our trans and non-binary friends and we have seen them attacked and maligned in ways that are

shocking. The impact of adults in power actively trying to make it more difficult for kids to live their lives is that other bigots feel empowered to harm and Trans and non-binary children suffer.

Please consider that this legislation is not rooted in sound science, it is harmful to Trans and non-binary youth, and all children deserve equitable access to the benefits of sports.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323.

Sincerely,

Kristin Beebe
Kropf Ave.
Madison, WI 53704

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

Dear Assembly and Senate Members,

Sports are important, but not for the reasons that many people think. I would know; I was in high school cross country for three years, and consistently was one of the slowest people on the team. But besides being the easiest way that I could earn a letter in sports, it was a way for me to make friends, create a healthy lifestyle, and learn good habits as a growing teenager. Although not all youth are into sports, this is still an important part of the lives of many. Sure, some people will excel at sports, and potentially make it into a college opportunity or more, but for a lot of school kids and college students, it's a way to enjoy yourself in a competitive environment and create bonds with your friends and teammates.

When you ban transgender youth from participating in sports with their friends, you aren't protecting the cisgender children; you're harming everyone. You take away the opportunity for these kids to grow and compete and enjoy themselves. Passing this bill would pit youth against each other instead of teaching them teamwork and sportsmanship, which is generally the main point of non-professional sports. And beyond that, passing this bill would show all transgender youth, not just the ones in sports, that the Wisconsin government is willing to go out of its way to cause them grief and harm. If this bill passes, Wisconsin youth will grow up believing that the legislature does not have their best interests at heart, and is not there to represent and support the needs of themselves and those that they care about. The simplest thing that can be done, as adults looking to do what is best for children and young adults, is to not give hateful bills like this the time of day.

As adults, we need to model love, compassion, teamwork, and respect for others so youth and young adults can grow up to do the same in the future. Please model these values by voting against this legislation and letting all Wisconsin kids thrive authentically and enjoy the benefits of participating in sports.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ash Lyke (he/his/him)

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Anna Reiser, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

My child's best friend is trans. They dig in the dirt together, create elaborate chalk drawings on our fence, fill our living room floor with Legos, read books on the couch together, do school work together, and make lightsabers out of paper together. They ask to see each other almost every day. Sometimes they argue.

It might seem like I am describing an everyday childhood friendship. That is because I am. These are just two kids.

I love our child's best friend for who she is, for how she goes on adventures in her imagination with my child, for how she treats my younger child with gentle kindness, and for how she always says "compliments to the chef" when I serve lunch.

My child understands that being transgender means that a person's gender does not match the gender their doctor and parents assumed when they were born. I asked my child what he would say if a trans child wanted to play on the same sports team as him and he said, "sure!" I asked him what he would say if there was a trans child playing on an opposing team that won and he said, "good game!" It is not difficult to be inclusive and kind.

My child and his best friend both deserve a world in which they can thrive and so, I implore you, please do not make the world a harsher place for one of them. Please do not tell one of these children that who they are is wrong by excluding them from valuable activities that will help them grow and learn. I hope you will use your position to protect and affirm transgender and nonbinary children in Wisconsin. I urge you to vote no on AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Anna Reiser
E. North St.
Appleton, WI 54911

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I am a teacher in the Madison Metropolitan School District. I am retiring and beginning a new journey— I begin seminary in Fall with the purpose of becoming a Lutheran pastor.

I am also a transgender woman.

I speak from experience when I say that you do harm in presenting and pushing this legislation. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

And I don't even know how to begin, how to help you understand the harm that is done here, the harm that comes from attacking our children just for existing. Our children who have done nothing wrong to bring on this hateful legislation, these bills that are nothing but fear in search of a problem.

I don't know where to begin, so I will begin with prayer.

I begin with a prayer for those of you who have given way to the short term gain of sponsoring hate and fear in search of a problem. I begin with a prayer that you take a moment, that you breathe in, breathe out, that you take time to listen to the words of love and welcome that have always been the words of the Divine.

Our children are not the problem.

Understand, I grew up in a time when the entirety of society said a girl like me could not exist. That belief, born from exclusion, was wrong then.

It is more wrong now.

I learned to hide my truth. By the time I was in kindergarten, I knew I had to hide. I enjoyed baseball as a child. I loved track and field. I LOVED track and field. But I learned that I was not welcome, though I hid in the form of a boy, I didn't fit. And I could not feel safe in the boy's locker room, though none but me knew my truth. I saw hate toward girls like me tossed out casually in Monty Python skits or Dave Chapelle Riffs, and still and now in hateful screeds from JK Rowling and in legislation like this, sweeping the nation to curry small political gains from those who preach to a false idol of fear.

I stand before you, knowing that my existence is an act of rebellion. And I can rebel. I can survive against the storm. I have survived, buoyed by the love of my powerful wife, my friends, my colleagues and the so so many strangers who forsake silence and speak in love.

But these children you strive to exclude, they should not have to learn that they can only live through resistance to a culture of hate. My childhood was stolen from me by a society that would not understand. Do not persist in that sin by stealing the childhood of our children now.

And I turn now to speak to those of you who choose silence in the face of this hatred. I turn to those of you who say, "Well, it's just an exercise. The bill won't become law anyway because Governor Evers will never sign it." Please understand the children under attack don't have the privilege of complacency. The fear stirred up here will fester unless you speak, unless you stand and say with clarity and strength:

Transgender women are women.

Transgender girls are girls.

Transgender men are men.

Transgender boys are boys.

And non-binary people are so delightfully valid.

And I end in prayer. I pray now for those of you finding your voice in support of love and welcome. I pray for you who know these bills for what they are, hatred cloaked in legalese. I pray that your opposition to these bills is loud, insistent, and continues as we move forward.

I stand in strong opposition to these bills.

Thank you for listening,

Ms. Vica V Steel

DATE: May 26, 2021

SUBJECT: Oppose AB195, AB196, SB 322, and SB 323 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

TO: Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

TO: Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Amelia Ramirez, my pronouns are she-her, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

Kids learn a lot of important life lessons in sports, including leadership, confidence, self-respect, and what it means to be part of a team. When we tell transgender girls that they cannot play girls' sports or transgender boys that they cannot play boys' sports, we deny them this important childhood experience and all the lessons sports teach. It can be hard to understand what it means to be transgender, especially if you've never met a transgender person. And it's common to have questions at first. But we can all agree that transgender kids should be treated with dignity and respect, just like everyone else. Local schools across the nation are already creating policies that protect transgender youth and ensure a level playing field for all students—and they're working. Banning transgender youth from playing sports undermines those local efforts. Transgender kids want the opportunity to play sports for the same reason other kids do: to be a part of a team where they feel like they belong.

We should not discriminate against kids and ban them from playing because they are transgender.

Transgender children are somebody's children. They are children just like yours and mine. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and be able to participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Amelia Ramirez
Russett Rd
Madison WI 53711

Subject Line: Oppose AB195, AB196, SB 322, and SB 323 - Relating to Transgender Students Participating in Sports

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

My name is Elizabeth Just, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am writing to oppose the following legislation: AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Transgender and nonbinary youth should be allowed to participate on sports teams which best align with their gender.

As an educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, a resident of the City of Madison, a partner to a trans and non binary identifying person, an active athlete and captain of a Womxns Ultimate Frisbee team, an aunt to several young Wisconsin youth, and a friend to many LGBTQ+ youth I am deeply committed to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning communities for all of our children. My values of belonging, racial equity, and social justice are at the core of my work with students and athletes. I take seriously our responsibility to provide safe and nondiscriminatory environments for all students. I strongly oppose AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323, which would eliminate a student's right to participate on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity.

All students and athletes want to play on a team, exercise and make friends. When we tell transgender girls that they can't participate in girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches. Schools across the country know that transgender students, like any student, thrive when they are treated with dignity and respect. School officials shouldn't treat a transgender female student as a girl between 8AM-3PM and then treat her like she's a boy when sports practice starts. It's deeply hurtful to the student and disrupts the school's policy of treating all kids fairly. **You're asking a child to be someone they are not.**

You're also making an assumption that a trans athlete has an advantage over the other players and/or other teams. This assumption is misleading and wrong. It doesn't give the entire team and athletes the agency to be inclusive, challenged and competitive in the sport they are playing. Athletes love a challenge, they love strategizing against ANY team that is better ranked, seemingly stronger, faster or more athletic. This PUSHES our teams to be better, work harder, and come together. As an athlete, captain, and coach that has played sports for over 20 years, I know this to be true. This bill is telling ALL ATHLETES they need "help" to win, a disservice to any

athlete. As a nation, we decided long ago that discrimination is wrong and that everyone should have the same opportunities to succeed in life—and that should include transgender youth.

I know there's a reason those who are trying to ban transgender kids from playing sports keep repeating the same two or three examples over and over again. That's because, in a country of more than 300 million people, these are the only examples they have of transgender girls who have won these kinds of titles. **The fact is, 99.9% of kids play sports without ever competing at any kind of elite level.** And the overwhelming majority of transgender youth, like most kids, just want to play and participate in everyday school sports with their peers.

AB196 & AB195 unfairly attack transgender youth who want the same opportunities as any student their age: To join a team, stay healthy, and make friends. We all want to ensure a level playing field in sports. The truth is, every child is different in different ways—which is why some girls excel at gymnastics, others at volleyball, some at basketball, and others at soccer. The overwhelming majority of transgender youth, like most kids, don't even play at elite levels. They just want to play everyday school sports and participate with their peers.

Transgender children are children. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys. I believe they deserve to live authentically and participate fully in athletics. I stand in strong opposition to the exclusion of transgender and non-binary youth from school sports and AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Just

123 W. Gorham St

Madison, WI 53703

justx027@gmail.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Just', with a stylized flourish at the end.

May 26, 2021

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

To Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Education: Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, Representative L. Myers.

To Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families: Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, Senator Agard.

Please include this testimony as part of the official bill record.

I'm writing to submit my written testimony opposing AB195. This legislation won't protect girls' sports and won't promote fairness—it will further marginalize and endanger the most vulnerable children in our communities. There's already abundant evidence that transgender women and girls don't have an unfair advantage in sports, any more than transgender men and boys do. What they do have is an elevated risk of social exclusion, depression, and suicide. Kids who want to participate in sports should be encouraged to do so, and to do as their authentic selves, in the social setting where they feel most comfortable.

WIAA's current policy is more than adequate to ensure fairness without risking the wellbeing of the student athletes who most need our support. AB195 won't protect anyone—there's no need to protect anyone from transgender women and girls. AB195 will harm people I value and love, and I firmly oppose on the grounds of both fairness and basic human decency.

Laura McKenzie Zeiss
Scranton Ct.
Madison, WI 53719
She/her

To Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities: Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, Representative Stubbs.

Hello. My name is Amira Pierotti and my pronouns are they / them / theirs. I am 17, nonbinary, and a student at James Madison Memorial high school in Madison, Wisconsin. When I came out as trans, my family, friends, and the activist community had my back. It was and continues to be incredible to be in spaces which accepted me without question and provided unwavering support. While I do not participate on a sports team, many of my friends have expressed how their teams have become that same type of loving community. For transgender and gender-expansive youth, AB 195 would take away opportunities to build and experience that same support and care.

Trans and gender-expansive youth should not be denied the same opportunities held by their cis peers. And cisgender youth are harmed by these restrictions too. I have been working to collect stories of Wisconsin youth, and children of all genders are concerned about the impact of these bills. Elaina, a 12th grader shared that she is a "cis female athlete and I can't imagine ever being threatened or upset about playing against someone who is a part of the transgender, nonbinary, and gender-expansive community...It is heartbreaking to think that people would want to take that away from this community because they are 'different.'" A cis girl athlete, E.O., who is in first grade, shared trans athletes "are always welcome on [her] team." These bills deny cis athletes the ability to create valued community if transgender youth cannot participate in sports.

Transgender and gender-expansive youth do not have advantages in sports: Dr. Joshua Safer, a valued member of the medical field, concluded that genetics, chromosomes, and genitalia "are not useful indicators" of athletic ability, but talent and training can be more important factors. We are also not threats to our cisgender peers: we just want to live our lives.

These bills place targets on trans athletes. If trans youth are forced to play on a team that aligns with their sex rather than gender or to be on a team solely with other trans youth, they will be singled out. Violence and harassment against trans and gender-expansive youth is common and, once a state law outs them to their school, the risk of discrimination only increases. According to the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey, nearly 1 in 4 transgender and gender-expansive youth in Wisconsin have been assaulted in school. Rates of violence and harassment disproportionately impact trans people of color: of the 44 known trans and gender-expansive people murdered in the U.S. in 2020, 82% were people of color, including Brayla Stone, a Black transgender 17 y/o who was murdered in Arkansas because someone put a hit on her. It simply is not a safe world for transgender people, especially trans people of color: the consequences of outing youth would be devastating. Anti-trans sports bans only harm our communities. Please vote "no" on AB 195.



May 26, 2021

To: Representative Murphy, Chair, Representative Dallman, Vice-Chair, and the members of the **Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities:**

Representative Tranel, Representative Duchow, Representative Wittke, Representative Summerfield, Representative Krug, Representative Petryk, Representative Cabral-Guevara, Representative Moses, Representative Hesselbein, Representative Shankland, Representative Anderson, Representative Emerson, and Representative Stubbs.

To: Representative Thiesfeldt, Chair, Representative Kitchens, Vice-Chair, and the members of the **Assembly Committee on Education:**

Representative Wittke, Representative Ramthun, Representative Wichgers, Representative Mursau, Representative Duchow, Representative Rozar, Representative Behnke, Representative Pope, Representative Hebl, Representative Considine, Representative Vruwink, and Representative L. Myers.

To: Senator Jacque, Chair, Senator Ballweg, Vice-Chair, and the members of the **Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families:**

Senator Wimberger, Senator Johnson, and Senator Agard.

Re: **AB 195, AB 196, SB 322, and SB 323: Opposition**

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities, the Assembly Committee on Education, and the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families:

I am writing on behalf of FORGE, a 27-year-old statewide transgender antiviolence organization headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in opposition to the above-referenced legislative proposals that would require Wisconsin educational institutions and University of Wisconsin institutions and technical colleges to designate three categories of athletic teams or sports based on the sex of the participants as assigned at birth and further require such institutions to prohibit men from participating in athletic teams or sports designated for women.

FORGE opposes these legislative proposals for three reasons:

1. The intent of the proposals is contrary to the philosophy of education-based athletic programs;
2. The proposals create significant, measurable harm to gender-expansive or transgender children and youth; and,
3. The proposals seek to regulate an issue that does not require legislative action.

Philosophy of education-based athletics

Education-based athletics programs are designed to extend learning opportunities for students from the classroom to the playing field, allowing students to experience additional educational opportunities including learning important principles to guide them throughout their lives.

Common outcomes for student athletic programs are that students should:

- *Learn sportsmanship to win humbly and graciously and to lose with dignity.*
- *Model integrity through playing by the rules.*
- *Use teamwork in order to contribute to a greater goal in which the athlete places the team's success or recognition before that of an individual.*
- *Reach out to assist teammates, which translates into helping others around them in life and contributing to the community.*
- *Develop perseverance and the ability to bounce back from defeats.*
- *Incorporate goal-setting learned through athletics into their approach to life.*
- *Develop a solid work ethic that emphasizes preparation and effort.¹*

According to the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations:

[I]mparting these principles to high school students is more important than the number of games they win during their four years in school. . . . [T]he quest to win games, events, championships cannot come at the expense of failing to provide these educational opportunities.²

Such educational, developmental, and social opportunities constitute the primary tangible immediate and lifelong benefits for students who participate in education-based athletics. Learning discipline, contributing to community, working together, and learning how to cope with and recover from setbacks and disappointments are invaluable opportunities to develop lifelong skills that all students should be entitled to access.

The proposed legislation, however, has the stated aim of excluding and isolating students whose gender does not align with the sex they were assigned at birth. Categorizing students based on their assigned sex, or forcing them to compete in a non-normative, third, other, "co-ed" category, deprives students of learning opportunities in safe and comfortable educational environments and undermines the values and philosophy of education-based athletics.³

¹ National Federation of State High School Athletics Associations. Defining Education-Based Activities Programs. (Sep. 23, 2015), <https://www.nfhs.org/articles/defining-education-based-activity-programs/#:~:text=Education%2Dbased%20athletics%2Factivities%20provide,on%20the%20playing%20field%2Fcourt.&text=Playing%20sports%20and%20participating%20in,outside%20the%20sports%20or%20activities.>

² *Ibid.*

³ Notably, very few high school student athletes will compete in college or professional settings. A mere 6% of an estimated 7,400,000 high school students will play college sports, and only 2% will receive scholarship opportunities. Of the 6% moving on to college, only 2% will progress to professional competition, or less than 9,000 nationally. NCAA. Facts About NCAA Sports, <https://www.nfhs.org/media/886012/recruiting-fact-sheet-web.pdf>.

Harm to transgender children and youth

Children and youth who are gender-expansive or transgender experience measurable harm as result of exclusionary policies and practices that separate and stigmatize them and fail to recognize them for who they are.

The State's obligation for the welfare, safety, and wellbeing of children in Wisconsin extends to gender-expansive or transgender children as well. Social science research overwhelmingly demonstrates a clear and direct link between social acceptance and recognition and the overall wellbeing of transgender youth, who may be experiencing rejection or lack of support in a variety of settings, including at home, at church, and at school and other activities.

Very recent data establish that gender-diverse youth in grades 8 through 12 may experience bullying and victimization up to three times more often than peers who identify as male or female.⁴ Prior studies have linked depression and school-based victimization as factors making transgender adolescents twice as likely to have suicidal thoughts than their peers and up to four times more likely to engage in substance use.⁵

On the other hand, research also demonstrates that support from adults, and that recognition and affirmation of children's and youth's gender identities are powerful protective factors that mitigate both depression and suicidality.

For example, acceptance from ONE supportive adult – who could be a teacher, coach, or other school staff member – correlates with a decrease in suicide attempts in LGBTQ youth from over 25% to 17%.⁶ Perhaps even more instructive, transgender youth who are consistently addressed by their chosen name experience 71% fewer symptoms of severe depression, 34% decrease in suicidal thoughts, and 65% decrease in suicidal attempts.⁷

Even the mere fact of existence of policies and practices that are inclusive of transgender youth – whether or not individual transgender youth avail themselves of their benefits – have been shown equally effective as protective factors. Youth in states with fully inclusive or partially inclusive athletics policies (like Wisconsin) are significantly less likely to have suicidal thoughts.⁸

⁴ Science Daily. Youths with Diverse Gender Identities Bullied up to Three Times More Than Peers, Study Finds. (May 12, 2021), <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/05/210512132910.htm>.

⁵ Sinatra, Christine S. Victimization of Transgender Youths Linked to Suicidal Thoughts, Substance Abuse. The University of Texas at Austin, College of Natural Sciences. (Sep. 18, 2017), <https://cns.utexas.edu/news/victimization-of-transgender-youths-linked-to-suicidal-thoughts-substance-abuse>.

⁶ The Trevor Project. Research Brief: Accepting Adults Reduce Suicide Attempts Among LGBTQ Youth. (Jun. 27, 2019), <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/2019/06/27/research-brief-accepting-adults-reduce-suicide-attempts-among-lgbtq-youth/>.

⁷ UT News. Using Chosen Names Reduces Odds of Depression and Suicide in Transgender Youths. (Mar. 30, 2018), <https://news.utexas.edu/2018/03/30/name-use-matters-for-transgender-youths-mental-health/#:~:text=Mar%2030%2C%202018-,Using%20Chosen%20Names%20Reduces%20Odds%20of%20Depression%20and%20Suicide%20in,of%20suicide%20and%20depression%20decreases>.

⁸ Center for American Progress. Fair Play: The Importance of Sports Participation for Transgender Youth. (Feb. 8, 2021), <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbtq-rights/reports/2021/02/08/495502/fair-play/>.

The proposed legislation will limit participation in education-based activities by children and youth whose gender does not align with whatever sex they were assigned at birth to categories based on that assignment. The effect of such proposals is to force gender-expansive youth into categories that do not fit who they are and do not affirm their whole selves, which social science research overwhelmingly identifies as risk factors for negative mental health outcomes, including depression and suicidality. Rather than targeting and stigmatizing certain youth, our collective focus should be on supporting all youth through creating inclusive, diverse, welcoming learning environments.

Legislation in search of a problem

The legislative proposals currently pending in the Assembly and Senate, in addition to belying the purpose of education-based athletics and causing measurable, potentially irreparable harm to transgender youth, do not achieve the oft-lauded goal of “leveling the playing field,” particularly for women’s sports.

First, there simply exist no data to support the notion that participation by transgender athletes in education-based athletics at either the high school or collegiate level results in unfair advantage or other reasonably attributable disparities.

The Center for American Progress’s longitudinal study of the effects of trans-inclusive and trans-exclusive state-level athletics participation policies reveals no data nationwide to support the need for exclusive policies:

There is no evidence to support the claim that allowing transgender athletes to participate will reduce or harm participation in girls’ sports. Though anti-transgender groups focus on the very few, cherry-picked examples of competitions where a transgender athlete outperformed a cisgender athlete, evidence suggests that inclusion of transgender athletes has had no impact on sports participation or women’s athletic achievements.⁹

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA), which maintains a policy allowing participation by transgender athletes in the sport that corresponds with their gender identity, with restrictions, similarly presents no data supporting the need for this legislation and states that the issue “has not been brought to us as a concern” by Wisconsin school districts.¹⁰

Moreover, data from longitudinal studies demonstrate that increases and decreases in the levels of participation in girls’ sports may correlate with states having policies that are inclusive or exclusive of transgender participants, respectively.¹¹

⁹ Center for American Progress. Fair Play: The Importance of Sports Participation for Transgender Youth. (Feb. 8, 2021), <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbtq-rights/reports/2021/02/08/495502/fair-play/>.

¹⁰ The Journal Times, Legislature Attacks a Handful of Teenagers (May 3, 2021), https://journaltimes.com/opinion/editorial/journal-times-editorial-legislature-attacks-a-handful-of-teenagers/article_25c89c55-083e-56d3-9ead-b4797a3d3dbb1d.html.

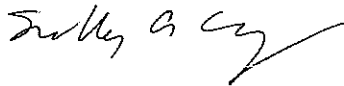
¹¹ Center for American Progress. Fair Play: The Importance of Sports Participation for Transgender Youth. (Feb. 8, 2021), <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbtq-rights/reports/2021/02/08/495502/fair-play/>.

Second, the concept of a "level playing field" in athletics is inherently elusive. Individual variations in human bodies abound, including in girls and women, that may affect athletic performance. External factors, particularly those dictated by "opportunity and cost," such as program resources, access to equipment, and quality of coaching, are highly relevant factors in improving athletic performance, especially for women and girls.¹²

In addition, medical research has identified at least 200 genetic variations considered relevant to athletic performance.¹³ The precise effect of testosterone levels on performance is not universally known, and in some cases, has been shown to have a negative correlation with athletic performance.¹⁴ Moreover, anatomical factors other than hormone levels are at play, including an individual's "height, blood flow, muscle mass, pain threshold, and respiratory and cardiac functions," all of which may produce advantages in certain physical activities.¹⁵

Finally, local school districts, the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletics Association, and the National Collegiate Athletics Association have all been working for years to develop policies and practices that ensure inclusion of gender-expansive and transgender students, albeit with restrictions, in K-12 schools and in colleges and universities. Those working on the ground to ensure safe and equitable educational environments for all of Wisconsin's youth are the most informed and best-suited to craft policies that meet students' needs and they are doing just that.

Sincerely,



Shelley Gregory
Strategic Project Coordinator

¹² Center for American Progress. Fair Play: The Importance of Sports Participation for Transgender Youth. (Feb. 8, 2021), <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbtq-rights/reports/2021/02/08/495502/fair-play/>.

¹³ Guth, Lisa M. and Roth, Stephen M. Genetic Influence on Athletic Performance. *Current Opinion in Pediatrics*. (Dec. 2013), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3993978/>.

¹⁴ Grossman, Joanna L. and Rathod, Saraswati. Trashing the Playing Field: State Legislators Misguided Move to Ban Transgender Women and Girls from Competing in Women's Sports. *The Verdict*. (Apr. 27, 2021), <https://verdict.justia.com/2021/04/27/trashing-the-playing-field-state-legislators-misguided-move-to-ban-transgender-women-and-girls-from-competing-in-womens-sports>.

¹⁵ Grossman, Joanna L. and Rathod, Saraswati. Trashing the Playing Field: State Legislators Misguided Move to Ban Transgender Women and Girls from Competing in Women's Sports. *The Verdict*. (Apr. 27, 2021), <https://verdict.justia.com/2021/04/27/trashing-the-playing-field-state-legislators-misguided-move-to-ban-transgender-women-and-girls-from-competing-in-womens-sports>.

Joint Statement in Response to Bills Seeking to Ban Trans Athletes in Wisconsin

We, the undersigned, a coalition of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) and allied state and local organizations, make the following statement in response to the introduction of legislation to ban transgender athletes in the Wisconsin legislature.

Kids learn a lot of important life lessons in sports: leadership, confidence, self-respect, and what it means to be part of a team. When we tell transgender girls that they can't play girls' sports—or transgender boys that they can't play boys' sports—they miss out on this important childhood experience and all the lessons it teaches.

It can be hard to understand what it means to be transgender, especially if you've never met a transgender person. And it's common to have questions at first. But we can all agree that transgender kids should be treated with dignity and respect, just like everyone else.

Transgender and nonbinary youth athletes play sports for the exact same reasons as other students their age: Staying healthy, being part of a team, and fostering friendships—all lifelong benefits of playing a sport.

Transgender and nonbinary youth also face discrimination in their daily lives, with many youth of color facing intersecting discrimination that compounds marginalization and exclusion. Like other students, some transgender and nonbinary youth turn to sports as an affirming space. Preventing them from participating sends a dangerous message to all transgender and nonbinary youth about not being welcome or wanted, and increases the risks to their physical and emotional wellbeing.

The introduction of these bills adds Wisconsin to a growing list of states that are introducing similar legislation as part of a coordinated effort by national anti-LGBTQ activists to spread myths and misinformation about what it means to be transgender and chip away at support for LGBTQ equality.

Laws like these do not protect girls' and women's access to sport. Instead, they create greater inequality and fail to address actual barriers to access like a lack of resources, lack of training, and lack of investment in women coaches.

And they are a 'solution' in search of a problem: 25 states have athletic inclusion policies that allow transgender youth athletes to play alongside their peers—providing for a level playing field and protecting transgender youth from discrimination. These policies make it possible to create pathways to participation for aspiring athletes. Furthermore, major athletic associations such as the NCAA, the International Olympic Committee, and USA Gymnastics also have instituted policies that allow transgender athletes to participate professionally.

Local schools across the nation are already creating policies that protect transgender youth and ensure a level playing field for all students—and they're working. Blanket bans on transgender student athletes undermine those local efforts.

As we all continue to face hardship from COVID-19, we need our lawmakers to pay attention to issues that matter—not look for ways to make life harder for transgender and nonbinary youth. We welcome legislation and policy that would proactively work to improve the health, well-being, and safety of transgender and nonbinary youth and send a clear and unequivocal message that they are seen, loved, and welcomed in all aspects their community.

1. ACLU of Wisconsin
2. Community Shares of Wisconsin
3. Diverse & Resilient
4. Fair Wisconsin
5. FORGE
6. GSAFE
7. Kenosha Education Association
8. The LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin
9. Madison Metropolitan School District
10. Madison Teachers Inc.
11. Milwaukee County Human Rights Commission
12. National Association of Social Workers, Wisconsin Chapter
13. Orgullo Latinx LGBTQ+ of Dane County
14. OPEN (Out Professional Engagement Network) Inc.

15. OutReach LGBTQ+ Community Center
16. Progress North
17. Pastor David Hart, Sherman Church, Madison
18. Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA)
19. Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC)
20. Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice
21. Wisconsin School Social Workers Association
22. Citizen Action of Wisconsin
23. For Our Future Wisconsin
24. Milwaukee LGBT Community Center
25. All on the Line Wisconsin
26. Bleed Shamelessly
27. Rape Crisis Center of Dane County
28. Human Rights Campaign
29. Janel Heinrich, Director, Public Health Madison & Dane County
30. Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway, City of Madison
31. Voces de la Frontera, Christine Neumann-Ortiz



WISCONSIN COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

Testimony

To: Members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities
From: Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA)
Date: May 26, 2021
Re: Assembly Bill 195
Position: Oppose

The Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA) appreciates the opportunity to offer this written testimony for your consideration. WCASA is a hybrid organization: functioning both to support member Sexual Assault Service Providers (SASPs), while advancing the anti-sexual assault movement in the state and nationally.

Transgender women participate in college sports for the same reasons as everyone else: to improve overall health and fitness, to be part of a team, and to foster friendships and sense of belonging. Furthermore, studies have demonstrated the benefits of girls participating in sports, including enhancing leadership skills and self-confidence¹. When we tell transgender women they cannot play women's sports, they miss out on these important experiences and all the lessons they can teach.

25 states have inclusion policies that allow transgender athletes to play sports alongside their peers. Furthermore, the NCAA, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and USA Gymnastics have also adopted similar policies. Banning transgender women from participating in women's sports teams at University of Wisconsin institutions or technical colleges puts Wisconsin out of step with all these efforts. It could also have negative economic consequences for Wisconsin. The NCAA reaffirmed their commitment to allowing transgender athletes to participate in sports in a letter released on April 12, 2021². In that letter, the NCAA stated that when they are deciding where to hold championship events, only sites that can ensure the safety of athletes and that are free from discrimination will be selected³. Passage of this legislation would seriously jeopardize our ability to host NCAA championship events thus eliminating the economic benefits associated with host cities.

Ensuring women's athletics is on a level playing field is an important goal. That is why laws like Title IX have been so important when it comes to women's sports. If we want to meaningfully support women's athletics at the collegiate level, we should focus our efforts on increasing investment in women's coaches and strengthening Title IX to protect female athletes from harassment and abuse. Banning transgender women from participating in university sports does nothing to address these issues.

Furthermore, transgender women vary in athletic ability just like cisgender athletes. Some women excel at soccer, some at volleyball, and some at gymnastics. Simply put, there is no reason why a person's

¹ Hinkelman, L. (2016) *The Girls' Index: Girls and Sports Impact Report*. Columbus, OH: Ruling Our eXperiences, Inc. [Final Girls & Sports Impact Report \(squarespace.com\)](#)

² [NCAA Board of Governors Statement on Transgender Participation | NCAA.org - The Official Site of the NCAA](#)

³ Ibid.

genetic makeup and reproductive anatomy should be an indicator of athletic performance.⁴ According to Dr. Joshua D. Safer, “There is no inherent reason why [a transgender woman’s] physiological characteristics related to athletic performance should be treated differently from the physiological characteristics of a non-transgender woman.”⁵ We should not discriminate against women and ban them from playing sports because they are transgender.

This legislation also compounds the discrimination transgender people already experience in their daily lives, and sends a dangerous message that they are not welcome on sports teams. For example, transgender people experience higher rates of bullying, anxiety, and depression⁶, all of which will be exacerbated if they are not allowed to participate in sports because of their gender identity. Furthermore, transgender women and girls face discrimination and violence that make it difficult to stay in school. For example, 22% of transgender women who were perceived as transgender in school were harassed to such an extent that they had to leave school because of it.⁷ These data contradict the notion that transgender women have an unfair advantage when participating on women’s sports team. Furthermore, forcing transgender women to participate on teams that do not align with their gender exposes them to range of serious negative impacts. This includes gender dysphoria and continually being mis-gendered, which increases the risk of suicide, self-harm, and bullying.

Transgender people are also disproportionately impacted by sexual violence, as nearly half of all transgender adults report experiencing sexual assault⁸. Those rates are even higher for Black and Native American transgender people, who thus experience intersecting discrimination and violence related to race and gender identity/expression⁹. Furthermore, this bill is rooted not just in transphobia, but also racism, as the main cases cited by proponents of similar legislation across the country involve two young Black women athletes in Connecticut. Black women in sports have long been subject to racist depictions about their femininity or been accused of cheating in an effort to keep them from competing. Instead of focusing efforts on keeping transgender athletes from participating in sports, we would be better served by ensuring they are treated with dignity and respect by welcoming them in university athletics.

For the reasons state above, WCASA opposes AB 195, and we urge this committee to take no further action on this legislation. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, you can reach me at ianh@wcasa.org.

⁴ Strangio, C., & Arkles, G. “Four Myths About Trans Athletes, Debunked.” www.aclu.org, April 30, 2020. www.aclu.org/news/lgbtq-rights/four-myths-about-trans-athletes-debunked/

⁵Ibid.

⁶ Turban, Jack L. “Research Review: Gender Identity in Youth: Treatment Paradigms and Controversies.” *The Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*. October 2017.

⁷ James, S.E., Herman, J.L., Rankin, S., Keisling, M., Mottet, L., & Anafi, M. (2016). *The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey*. Washington, D.C.: National Center for Transgender Equality.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.