

Committee members,

I oppose bill 1249 because of the fact that when youth are in high school, they are in their most formative years in life. Youth are molded each day by interactions with others and highly influenced by those they are surrounded by. We know these people to be role models, many of which I would anticipate you to identify as. For transyouth recognizing their internal identity, to be met with restrictions of being included as part of a team because of that recognized internal identity, will foster ostrification. For youth to thrive, they need to feel a sense of belonging and security with those they are surrounded by. If transyouth are being restricted access to opportunities to foster team skills, as a society, we will be molding isolative withdrawn citizens.

Allowing transyouth to be a part of a team will provide opportunities to promote skill development with communication, socialization, and building self-efficacy. Each of those skills are required to be a productive member of society. Removing opportunities to participate in sports to learn these skills, will guide transyouth towards other social engagement activities (drinking, drugs, sexual engagements) where they do feel welcomed and included. These types of social activities will not promote skill development in transyouth. Let's choose to create opportunities for all youth to develop skills versus a pre-determined future.

Thank you for your time and consideration of how formative this time in life is for all youth.