

Bill HB1249 excludes and discriminates against kids who are MOST in need of community and support from full participation with their peers and within their schools. It further marginalizes a group of children already subject to bullying, abuse, and harassment for being brave enough to exist as their true selves. They deserve to be able to be part of teams that reflect the people they know themselves to be!! DO NOT PASS this bill.

FURTHERMORE: We, as a state, already fought against a version of this bill once, and rejected it. NOTHING HAS CHANGED in regard to how damaging this bill (and every incarnation of it we've seen across the country) will be to these kids and their ability to participate in their communities. WHY are our state legislators so obsessed with regulating and controlling the bodies of children? NO ONE is asking for this bill, and NO ONE needs this bill, because the number of trans kids participating in school sports in this state is so vanishingly small that there is absolutely no reason for such an outsized investment in driving them out of sports teams designated for "Girls."

What this bill WILL do, in addition to driving transgirls out of sports altogether and socially and lawfully punish them for existing, is allow bullying, abuse, and harassment of any girl on a girl's team who doesn't LOOK feminine enough. Just as the last bill would have done. These kids are already under so much pressure to perform their gender in JUST THE RIGHT WAY and engagement with sports is often the ONE PLACE where girls can let go of the fear they won't be girly enough to please their peers. Now you're trying to enact a law which would allow people to pursue damages and injunctive relief for letting them participate in sports?

Sure, these kids will likely have documentation of their "sex"--I'd imagine the result of this bill will require that everyone provide said documentation in order to participate in school sports at all (and its convenient that the bill ignores the existence of intersex children, of course--where do they belong??? Or would the state legislature like them to be bullied out of existence and participation in society as well?). But the psychological damage to that child whose gender has been called into question, the way that accusation will follow them through the rest of their schooldays won't be so quickly cleared up. You cannot attack and target transgirls without allowing and encouraging the attack and targeting, the bullying and harassment, of ALL girls.

Just let the kids live! Let them play! Let them be part of teams and enjoy their childhoods on their own terms! There is absolutely no reason for the state to interfere in any of this.