

HB 1249

As a clinical psychologist, I have had the opportunity to provide treatment to many transgender adolescents. Although there certainly are exceptions, many of these individuals have challenges connecting socially and finding comfortable spaces for physical activity. All students deserve access to participation in sports during their development. Transgender students can experience significant discomfort in being forced to compete with students of a different gender experience. This discomfort frequently leads to nonparticipation. The tendency for transgender youth to have disproportionately more health concerns is partially related to a lack of safe physical activities.

Those young transgender people who I have seen participating in school sports have thrived. They have gained confidence, reported improved relationships, and experienced fewer mental health symptoms. When you watch them play, they are just one of the kids, loving the experience - even with no state titles.

No one in this state has put more time and energy into observing the status of our gender diverse youth than Faye Seidler. I would strongly recommend review of her testimony - [Document 15276](#) . In summary, nowhere is there a crisis related to transgender sports participation. The assumption that transgender women will dominate school sports has not panned out. However, lack of opportunities for our youth to play and learn together will damage our youth. Please vote DO NOT PASS on HB 1249.