

Bill HB1489 excludes and discriminates against the people 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 people 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!! LITERALLY THIS IS THE SAME NONSENSE FROM BILL 1249 being applied to higher ed!!! 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 people and their ability to participate in their communities and pursue their passions and interests. NO ONE is asking for this bill, and NO ONE needs this bill, because the number of trans athletes participating in 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" or "women."

And let's not kid ourselves: When the state of North Dakota allows its PRE-EMINENT WOMEN'S HOCKEY PROGRAM at UND, a program which produced TEAM USA OLYMPIANS, to be cut, we lost ALL credibility when it comes to fairness in women's sports. What was fair about that, for all the athletes who were recruited into that program? for all the women in the state and outside it who had worked HARD to earn their place on that team? All this state is trying to do is take away MORE opportunities from MORE people--to TARGET transathletes specifically and exclude them from receiving any of the scraps we throw to women's sports in higher ed at all. It's discriminatory and as a state, we should be ashamed of our legislators for putting this kind of nonsense forward and wasting both our time and our tax dollars in its pursuit. Tax dollars that would have been better spent supporting the sports programs and athletes they're so suddenly concerned about "protecting" against a threat that doesn't exist.

Because transwomen athletes threaten no one. Their inclusion in sports teams threatens NO ONE. They're not taking a spot from anyone more deserving. They're not winning titles at any kind of rate that suggests an unfair advantage.

What this bill WILL do, in addition to driving trans athletes out of sports altogether and socially and lawfully punish them for existing, is allow bullying, abuse, and harassment of any woman on a women's team who doesn't LOOK feminine enough. Just as EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THESE transparently discriminatory anti-trans bills will ultimately do.

Sure, these athletes 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 higher ed sports at all (and its convenient that the bill ignores the existence of intersex athletes, 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 person whose gender has been called into question, the way that accusation will follow them through the rest of their career won't be so quickly cleared up. You cannot attack and target transwomen without allowing and encouraging the attack and targeting, the bullying and harassment, of ALL women.

Just let people live! Let them play! Let them compete! Let them pursue the athletic feats they excel at as far as they can go! (And the number of people who have the right combination of personality and roll of the dice genetics to get ANYWHERE as a professional athlete ALREADY works against such a very tiny population sliver of people!) Let them be part of teams and enjoy their lives on their own terms! There is absolutely no reason for the state to interfere in any of this.