

Greetings Chairman Weisz and Committee Members,

In regard to HB 1298, Janne Myrdal recently expressed concern that her daughters might be put at a disadvantage in sports if transgender students were allowed to play on teams that did not match their gender assigned at birth. I'd like her to consider this: As a 13-year old I was a 6 ft. tall, 190 lb. forward on my JV team who could palm a boys' regulation basketball. Because I was bigger and stronger than the typical 7th-grade girl, should I have not been allowed to play? I am a cisgender female, and would those physical stats have mattered any differently had I been a transgender girl?

People come in all shapes and sizes, especially during the school-age years. To blame size/strength discrepancies on transgender athletes is dishonest. The core intention of this bill is discrimination that doesn't need to happen. I urge the committee to recommend Do Not Pass on HB 1298.

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