

For the past six years I have been a cheerleader, for the past four years I have been a competitive cheerleader, for the past three years I have been an All American nominee, and for the past year I have been an All American cheerleader. I have won numerous titles at competitions, and my team has placed above fourth nearly every competition since my freshman year. Yet, since those awards, competitions, and hard work I have been told for the past six years, that cheerleading is not a sport. There are problems in female sports, and predominantly female sports being mocked, belittled, and shamed is one of them. Trans women in female sports, is not. The worry that trans women will have an unfair advantage, because their “stronger”, and “taller” so they’ll win, is illegitimate. As an athlete in one of few non designated male female sports, I can say, genetics do not prioritize skill. I have seen numerous teammates beat biological males, and I, myself, have beaten numerous males, despite genetics going against me. Males have stronger hip flexor muscles, so their jumps should be better, their shoulders are naturally stronger, so their tumbling should be better, but the biological factors do not define the athlete, and do not make them immediately dominating.

Not only is House Bill #1298 unnecessary, but in other states with similar legislation it has backfired. According to the Guardian, Mack Beggs won the Texas girls title numerous times. He transitioned from female to male, and because of a law similar to this one, he had to compete in female wrestling. If you want to avoid trans athletes dominating, then let trans women play with women and let trans men play with men.

House Bill #1298 is discriminatory, overreaching, and unnecessary. In the words of Kathy Skroch, this bill “is about girls competing with girls, ensuring equal opportunity.” If you

want girls to compete with girls, making a bill that bans girls from competing with girls is not the approach. If you wanna preserve equal opportunity, a discriminatory bill essentially banning trans athletes is not the approach. Trans women are women, and if you want to protect women, making a bill that harms women, is not the approach. Protecting women means protecting all women, not just CIS women. As a female, as an All American athlete, I'm asking you to vote no on House Bill #1298.