



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN®

April 14, 2023

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the Human Rights Campaign's more than three million members and supporters nationwide, I write to express our strong opposition to H.R. 734—the misnamed Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2023 which seeks to implement a discriminatory ban on transgender girls participating in girls' sports nationwide. As the nation's largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer equality, we are deeply concerned about the negative impact this legislation would have on young people already facing significant challenges due to stigma and discrimination.

Athletics are an experience everyone deserves equal access to. School sports provide important development opportunities that teach young people about teamwork, perseverance, leadership, discipline, and exercise, and help them build friendships and community. All kids—including transgender girls and intersex children who would also be restricted from participating in school sports by this bill—should have the same opportunities to participate in activities that embody our shared ideals as Americans.

We know that allowing transgender and intersex youth to play sports in school does not disadvantage anyone else. States, school districts, and athletic associations around the country have allowed transgender and intersex young people to participate in school sports consistent with their gender identity for decades—all without issue. Indeed, despite hundreds, if not thousands, of transgender women and girls participating in sports over time, only a handful of transgender athletes in high school or college have had any notable success. This is because transgender and intersex students do not seek to participate in sports consistent with their gender identity to gain an unfair advantage—they do it for the same reasons other young people play sports in school: to challenge themselves, improve their fitness, be part of a team, and have fun.

Banning transgender and intersex kids from playing sports in school would do nothing to address ongoing, well-documented threats to girls' and women's sports, including a lack of equal resources, pay inequality, and sexual harassment. Advocates for women and girls in sports like the National Women's Law Center, the Women's Sports Foundation, Women Leaders in College Sports, and American Association of University Women all support policies allowing transgender people to play sports consistent with their gender identity.

These groups oppose efforts to exclude transgender students like this bill, which would promote baseless fears and misinformation rather than solve any real problems.

We urge you to vote no on H.R. 734, as well as vote against any anti-LGBTQ+ amendments. We will consider these key votes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelley Robison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kelley Robison
President