



April 19, 2023

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.7 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, I write to urge you to oppose H.R. 734, the so-called Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2023 and to reject its attacks on students. This misguided bill bans transgender kids from participating in school sports, causing harm and undermining civil rights for all students.

Rather than focusing on ways to strengthen public schools, meet the needs of all students and families, and protect transgender students from attacks, this bill targets students and blocks them from participating in school activities alongside their peers. Schools and colleges are looking for a practical road map on how to craft athletic policies and criteria for male and female teams consistent with Title IX—not a politically motivated blanket ban. Tragically, H.R. 734 uses Title IX, which is intended to prevent discrimination, to in fact discriminate.

This is not what parents and families want. They want Congress to address the actual challenges confronting them daily. A recent poll by the AFT (<https://www.aft.org/press-release/new-polling-reveals-gopmccarthy-schools-agenda-unpopular-and-odds-parents-priorities>) demonstrates that voters overwhelmingly reject political fights in schools and instead favor getting our kids and teachers what they need to recover and thrive. The public prefers that lawmakers invest in public schools and provide educators the resources they need to create safe and welcoming environments; boost academic skills; pave pathways to career, college and beyond; and keep kids safe from gun and other violence. Congress should be working to advance solutions that support our nation's students, value our nation's parents and help our nation's educators.

H.R. 734 is harmful and cruel. It targets innocent kids who want to live their lives in peace and play sports on a team with their friends and classmates. And to make matters worse, it uses the protection of women and girls as a smokescreen to further discriminate against them and open up pathways to violate their privacy. We know that if the legislation's goal were to truly expand protections for women and girls, it would provide for equal facilities and equipment, strengthen sexual harassment protections and address strategies women athletes have been advocating for decades—but it does not.

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The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

American Federation  
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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AFT Teachers  
AFT PSRP  
AFT Higher Education  
AFT Public Employees  
AFT Nurses and Health  
Professionals

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We join parents in urging Congress to meaningfully work on these issues and would applaud any such efforts. Unfortunately, that is not the focus of this House of Representatives, and it is not the focus of H.R. 734. Please vote "no" on H.R. 734.

Thank you for considering our views on these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randi Weingarten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Randi" and last name "Weingarten" clearly distinguishable.

Randi Weingarten  
President, American Federation of Teachers

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