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Testimony from Jocelyn Foye, Executive Director of The Womxn Project, in opposition to H7727, the Fairness in Women's Sports Act

The Womxn Project is a 501c4 and works toward reproductive justice, bodily autonomy, and freedom in Rhode Island. The movement we stand behind is based on creating a culture that embraces the human dignity of all people living in Rhode Island and beyond.

The Fairness in Women's Sports Act would prohibit transgender girls and women from participating in interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural, or club athletic teams or sports consistent with their gender. Sports participation is an important aspect of a young person's education. It teaches teamwork, leadership, and self-discipline, and gives kids confidence that they will have the support of their peers, no matter the outcome of their efforts.

Those pushing to prohibit transgender girls and women from participating in sports with their own gender often point to a desire to create a level playing field among teammates and competitors. But these aren't people playing at an elite level. The true benefits of playing sports at the level we're discussing here come from being part of a team where kids feel they belong. Denying transgender youth this important part of their education and banning them from playing with people of their own gender harms transgender youth and denies them the ability to thrive and learn.

I urge you to stop this bill from moving forward.

Sincerely,
Jocelyn Foye
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