

Lisa Cataldi

From: Nikole Barnes, LICSW <nbarneslcsw@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 7, 2024 2:05 PM
To: House Education Committee
Subject: Testimony in Opposition of HB 7727

To The House Committee:

My name is Nikole Barnes, I am the president of Radically Thrive Therapy, LLC. My practice supports the LGBTQAI+ community and works with clients that are transgender and gender non-conforming.

I am writing to express my vehement opposition to the transphobic bill 2024, House Bill 7727, also known as the Fairness in Women's Sports Act. As a concerned citizen and advocate for equality and justice, I urge you to reject this discriminatory legislation and uphold the rights and dignity of transgender individuals in our state.

House Bill 7727 seeks to undermine the rights of transgender students by mandating that athletic teams be designated based on biological sex rather than gender identity. This not only perpetuates harmful stereotypes and discrimination but also directly targets transgender individuals who wish to participate in sports consistent with their gender identity.

The bill relies on outdated and discredited arguments about biological differences between males and females to justify its discriminatory provisions. It ignores the lived experiences of transgender individuals and the overwhelming scientific consensus that gender identity is a deeply ingrained aspect of a person's identity, separate from their biological sex.

Furthermore, House Bill 7727 would subject transgender students to invasive and stigmatizing processes, such as requiring a signed physician's statement to establish their sex. This not only violates their right to privacy but also creates unnecessary barriers to participation in sports, further marginalizing an already vulnerable population.

As a society, we should be fostering inclusivity and acceptance rather than enacting laws that discriminate against transgender individuals. All students, regardless of their gender identity, deserve equal opportunities to participate in sports and pursue their passions without fear of discrimination or exclusion.

I urge you to stand on the right side of history by opposing House Bill 7727 and any similar legislation that seeks to discriminate against transgender individuals. Let us work together to create a more inclusive and equitable society where everyone can thrive regardless of their gender identity.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I trust that you will make the morally and ethically sound decision to reject this harmful legislation.

Sincerely,
Nikole Barnes, LICSW



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