

From: Carol [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 8:02 PM
To: Sen. Shelley Hughes
Subject: Transgender sports bill

Dear Senator Hughes,

I want to voice my disagreement with your bill banning transgender females in high school sports. Please consider the following points:

1. Doctors who see transgender adolescents uniformly state that helping their patients to move closer to their identified gender using a “..gender-affirmative approach and evidence-based medicine allows young transgender people to live in the world as their authentic selves. This improves quality of life and saves lives.” Trans students who are not allowed to at least socially transition experience high rates of suicide.

Denying trans females the opportunity to BE FEMALES in all areas of their lives, including sports competitions, denies them their authentic selves, which is very harmful to young people.

2. Human bodies differ greatly from one to another. Female athletes have bodies that range tremendously in size and shape. Trans females fit on the spectrum of all of the body sizes and shapes seen in developing girls. There is no reason to deny them, then, the opportunity to participate in sports.

3. The discomfort that some adults feel with the idea of transsexuality should not in itself create an obstacle for an adolescent. In the 1950’s some adults were uncomfortable with the idea of their children attending school with children of another race. How does the world today view that kind of treatment of children based on adult discomfort that we saw in those days? Not kindly.

4. Lastly, parents of students in high school need to realize that although sports is enjoyable for kids and parents alike, and although it is something that we can all get excited over, it is not as important as we sometimes make it when we’re involved in it. It is not the Olympics, and despite their hopes and daydreams, students rarely become professional athletes. Putting high school competition into the appropriate perspective would help parents realize that their daughters will not be harmed by the participation of a trans female.

Thank you for considering these points. Please withdraw the bill and show the Valley that you support ALL students.

Carol Thompson
Valley resident since 1983

[REDACTED]

From: Sarah Parker [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 11:31 AM
To: Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Senate Education; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: Support Alaska's students

Dear Senators, thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

It is my understanding that AK HB230 would require athlete participation in sports "based on the participant's biological sex" and would allow any athlete who feels they were unfairly harmed by the participation of a trans athlete to sue people, schools, school districts, and institutions of higher education for that harm.

It is my opinion that this bill (and others like it across the country) are direct attacks on the rights of trans kids to just exist as they are. So, rather than focus on school or make plans for the weekend, trans students in Alaska and all across the country are now being subjected to ignorant and discriminatory legislation like HB 230 that aims to push them out of public life. Did you know that 85% of trans youth report that constant political attacks on them have had a negative impact on their mental health, according to recent Trevor Project data?

In every state and every community - trans and non-binary people belong. Excluding trans kids from sports (because we all know that that's what this bill is designed to do) sends them the message that they are not worthy of the same kinds of opportunities as their classmates.

Alaska is better than this. Trans kids deserve the same amount of dignity and respect as any other student. I urge you to vote no on this and all other discriminatory legislation that targets trans youth.

Sincerely,
Sarah Parker

[REDACTED]

From: Duncan Baumgarten [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 2:48 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB140

Hello,

My name is Duncan Baumgarten. I grew up in Alaska, and know how essential and impactful the work of the Senate Education Committee is. I've watched it make consequential decisions in the past, and I wanted to make my voice heard so that I can see your work be representative of your community.

I am asking you to vote NO on SB140, as I believe it will negatively impact students who wish to compete as they are, with the strengths that they have been given, and to live and express themselves authentically. The Alaskan spirit is to be the best you can be and to not limit others from being successful. I ask that you represent that spirit in your vote, by voting NO on SB140.

Thank you,
Duncan Baumgarten

[REDACTED]

From: Cassandra Gardner Raun [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2022 2:29 PM
To: Senate Education
Cc: Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: No to SB 140

Dear Senators,

I am compelled to write urging you to please NOT pass SB 140. I am a female athlete. I have played sports my entire life. I am not threatened or displaced by transgender girls or transgender women playing with or against me. I am the mother of three young cisgender girls who attend Anchorage public schools and who all play sports. They are not threatened or displaced by transgender athletes. Transgender youth play sports for the same reason that any youth plays: for the challenge, for the fun, for the self improvement and to build self-confidence, to be part of a team, to feel included and accepted.

Passing SB 140 will profoundly violate the privacy of all youth, including that of my own cisgender daughters. SB 140 will bring harm to the well-being and mental health of transgender youth by excluding them from the wonderful opportunities that sports offer.

If you are truly concerned with youth "being deprived of athletic opportunity," to quote SB 140, I entreat you, please work to provide more athletic opportunity for ALL students, rather than working to limit the opportunities of our most vulnerable youth. Please do NOT pass SB 140.

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Sincerely,

Cassandra Raun
Anchorage Voter
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Sara Jeffress [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2022 3:43 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Alaska SB 140

Good Afternoon,

I am writing today to voice my opposition to Senate Bill 140. This bill will lead to the stigmatization and isolation of trans students, undermining their health, safety, and social and emotional development. As a Palmer resident and the parent of a transgender child, I would ask that you please consider carefully the incredible damage and risk that this bill presents.

My primary concern is that this bill would **violate basic privacy rights** by requiring educators and coaches to police whether a student is trans or not, which the school is not legally or ethically authorized to do under medical privacy laws, professionalism standards, and non-discrimination laws. The next step, presumably, is to ask trans students to leave their sport activities. This is a very visible marker to their peers and it can lead to bullying, isolation, and even attacks. Those actions often, ultimately, lead trans youth to an increased risk of mental health issues and suicide. For the safety of these kids, we need to go carefully and thoughtfully and step away from legislation that enables targeting and exclusion.

This bill imposes a narrow and unscientific definition of "sex" that invalidates gender identity – this is contrary to the growing consensus of medical and mental health professionals, not to mention federal law. There are real issues with gender parity in sports, like unequal funding, resources, and pay. Promoting baseless fears about trans athletes does nothing to address these pressing problems. SB 140 does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans students. **To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, lawmakers must oppose this bill.**

I am deeply saddened that the Alaska Legislature, instead of focusing on ways to strengthen and support our state, has resorted to hateful, partisan bills like SB 140 that create division among Alaskan citizens. We need to find more ways to work together, not tear each other apart. Every individual in this state has the right to determine their own path. Gender identity is a deeply personal issue that requires respect, care, and privacy. Please don't expose these kids to more harm. They are not looking to harm you. They only want to be themselves.

Please oppose SB 140. I appreciate the time you have taken to read this testimony. For the protection of my family, I prefer that our names not be mentioned, though it is essential that our voices be heard.

Many thanks,

Sara
District 11 Resident
Palmer, AK 99645
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Katherine Ellison [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2022 4:25 PM
To: Senate Education; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: SB 140

Hello,
My name is Katherine Ellison, and I am a third generation Alaskan. I live in Anchorage with my husband and three daughters, all of whom play sports (softball, flag football & soccer). I can say that the issue before you with regards to SB140 has never even remotely been an issue or concern for our family.

I am disappointed that the education committee has selected to spend time on a bill that quite frankly should be at the bottom of your priority list. Alaskan students have just gotten back into the classroom this year and need new support and/or programs to address the learning loss from the pandemic. Our reading scores are terribly low, and our students could use help with mapping out their postsecondary education options.

The last thing Alaska needs right now is to be drawn into a lower 48 culture war. Stop importing bills and focus on the current educational needs of ALASKAN students. Thank you,

Katherine Ellison
[REDACTED]
Anchorage Ak, 99502

[REDACTED]

From: Shoshana Kun [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2022 6:09 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Oppose SB 140

This is an attack on transgender students.

Thank you,
-Shoshana Kun
Fairbanks city
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Amanda Chriswell [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2022 7:32 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: opposition to SB 140

I am writing to express my extreme opposition to SB 140. We need to show our trans kids that we support them, not make them feel shame for how they were born. How will this disgraceful bill be enforced, anyway? Will we have designated coaches to check everyone's genitals before each game? Will each child need to submit a DNA test to enter into sports? Shouldn't sports in high school and elementary school be fun for our kids, instead of punishment for not fitting into the "normal" mold? And to allow legal action for anyone who feels wronged because of a trans student is absolutely repulsive. I am disgusted by this bill and I vehemently oppose it.

Amanda Chriswell
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99508

[REDACTED]

From: Allison Paskin [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2022 9:14 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: OPPOSE SB 140

Dear Senators,
My name is Allison Paskin. I live in area code 99506. I OPPOSE SB 140.

Everyday, in schools across Alaska, The Pledge of Allegiance is recited. What is the last line of The Pledge? "With liberty and justice for all." For all. FOR ALL.

Transgender students must be included in FOR ALL. Transgender students, just like cisgender students, deserve the opportunity to participate in sports and reap the benefits sports provide, including better self-esteem, increased sense of belonging, and improved grades.

Discriminatory bills like SB 140/HB 230 heighten trans students' risk of being bullied and attacked, which increases their risk of mental health issues and suicide.

Transgender athletes are not causing any problems in youth sports. The witch-hunt that unfairly and illegally prosecutes transgender kids for living as their authentic selves is the problem.

There is simply NO data to support fairness concerns when trans athletes participate, especially since 0.6% of people identify as transgender and not all want to play sports.

I OPPOSE SB 140 and I demand you vote against it. This kind of discrimination has no place in Alaska.

Thank you for your time.

Allison Paskin

[REDACTED]

From: Tyler Watson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2022 10:01 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Vote No - SB 140

Dear members of the Senate Education Committee,

I'm writing to voice my strong opposition to SB 140 and urge you to vote no on this cruel and unnecessary bill. Transgender kids already face enough challenges and hardships in life, singling them out in a bill like this will only increase the negative things they have to deal with on a daily basis. No child wants to be the target of something like this, especially something that violates the privacy rights of ALL students by forcing school employees to pry into students' lives to determine their gender. Just trust kids to be themselves. This bill is a solution looking for a problem. Trans kids represent such a miniscule percentage of athletes that this is not an issue that any of us are likely to face. But for those who are trans, whether they be athletes or not, this is just one more sign from adults in our state telling them they aren't good enough as they are, that they're bad, or unworthy.

Thanks for your time,

Tyler Watson
Anchorage, AK
House District 27
Senate District N

--
Tyler Watson
Email: [REDACTED]
Cell: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: goodboypaschal [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 4:46 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing to express my profound opposition to SB 140.

This harmful bill will further persecute a population of our youth that already face tremendous challenges and cruel discrimination.

Every student deserves to participate in school activities as themselves. They should not have to prove their maleness or femaleness to anyone and having the biological sex of any student under scrutiny is invasive, wrong, and, frankly, creepy.

Tall, short, slim, broad, quick, muscular, or wiry: All athletes are individual. They always have been.

Please don't put up any more roadblocks in front of our children. They have been through enough. Let them play.

Sincerely,
Mara Severin

[REDACTED]

From: Elyse Guttenberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 8:58 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Oppose SB 140

I'm writing to ask you to stand up for our kids -- all our kids-- and oppose this harmful bill. It's discrimination that separates children, teaches hate, and denies rights. The harm this does Alaska's children will follow them for years. And please, for God's sake, stop trying to erase people just because someone might not like them.
Elyse Guttenberg

[REDACTED]

From: Carrie Baker [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 9:55 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Oppose SB140

Hello,
My name is Carrie Baker and I live in Fairbanks. Thank you for reading my email.

I oppose SB104. I ask you to oppose SB 140 regarding preventing trans youth from participating in sports. Why would the state of Alaska legislate discrimination??? Alaska is better than that. Please choose to be on the good side of history and do not pass a bill that would discriminate against trans Alaskans. This is a no brainer. Discrimination is wrong. Do the right thing, please.

Discriminatory bills like SB 140/HB 230* heighten trans students' risk of being bullied and attacked, which increases their risk of mental health issues and suicide. This bill would violate basic privacy rights by requiring educators and coaches to police whether a student is trans or not, which the school is not legally or ethically authorized to do under medical privacy laws, professionalism standards, and non-discrimination laws.

Thank you for your time.
Best,
Carrie Baker
Fairbanks, AK 99709

[REDACTED]

From: Cheryl & Mark Lovegreen [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 9:58 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

Dear Senators,

I am writing in opposition of SB 140, about trans youth in sports and education. This bill discriminates against trans students and excludes transgender girls from participating fully in sports and their school communities. It violates student privacy, forcing coaches and educators to identify and separate students from their peers.

We must not tolerate attempts to dehumanize transgender people and deny anyone their rights. This and all other discriminatory bills should not make it out of committee.

Thank you for your time,

Cheryl Lovegreen
Anchorage

[REDACTED]

From: C. Ellis [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 10:21 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: I stand in opposition to SB 140

Hello,

My name is Cassandra Ellis, I live in Fairbanks, Alaska, and I oppose the new proposed senate bill 140. Segregating transgender girls endangers and already at risk population of youth. It also keeps them from being to participate in healthy activities that all youth, regardless of gender, race, or identity should be allowed to participate in.

We already have an already high rate of suicide amongst youth and sports are one of the activities that have been proven to help prevent suicide. Please consider protecting the youth of Alaska by not introducing a bill that will increase anti-trans feelings amongst our community.

Thank you,

Cassandra

[REDACTED]

From: summer j andersen [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 11:55 AM
To: Sen. Shelley Hughes
Subject: In Opposition to SB 140

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a lifelong Alaskan raising my own family here now. I know that trying to drag national political narratives into our unique state does not work.

Creating policies and procedures in youth sports that involve probing into private and intimate subjects such as the sex and gender of minors is a minefield. Allowing other athletes to claim they are "harmed" by the participation of an athlete and seek Liability is frivolous, and has the potential to damage our institutions. Furthermore, legislation targeting a specific group of people is deeply unamerican.

Please rethink your position and vote down this bill immediately,

Summer Andersen
Haines, Alaska

[REDACTED]

From: Stephanie Haskins [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 12:03 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Opposition to SB 140

Good afternoon,

I oppose SB 140 and strongly encourage the education committee to oppose it, as well. Excluding transgender children from school sports is unnecessary and harmful to them, and our state would benefit from including and supporting transgender children rather than excluding them and depriving them of support. Please oppose this bill and offer support rather than exclusion to all of our state's children.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Haskins
Fairbanks, Alaska

[REDACTED]

From: z [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 12:17 PM
To: Senate Education; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Cc: mpyhala@acluak.org
Subject: Testimony for SB 140

Hello to everyone on the State of Alaska Senate Education Committee (who are all copied here):

My name is Jessica and I am a five year resident of Alaska, residing in the beautiful Denali borough.

I am writing to express my utmost concern at the potential passing of SB 140, which you are set to review in committee tomorrow, March 3rd.

Please record my opposition and this email testimony.

Upon my review of SB 140, and consideration of the hysteria being stoked across this country, I find that this bill is based in fear, and not wanting to understand other people.

I urge you all to think of **everyone** who lives in the 49th state, and those who visit, from all around the world.

Recognize that there are trans people in every single part of this state – in every single industry - whether you know it or not...and if any of you have ever gotten coffee or been to a restaurant in Juneau...you know this, too. You should. I'm married to a trans person, and count others as friends in my own borough, and others.

Trans people are beautiful, and trans kids are heroes.
More importantly, they're kids! Let them be kids!
Let them explore identity and gender, and play sports, too.

Trans people have always been here, and always will be, no matter the hysterical, hate-driven attempts that fuster throughout modern history.

For the record, the "witch trials" of Salem, Massachusetts are not looked back fondly in history...and neither will this war against trans children and the all-encompassing, growing LGBTQ community and its allies. Did you know that according to a recent Gallup poll, *"21% of Generation Z Americans – those born from 1997 to 2003 – identified as LGBTQ"*. This has doubled since 2012! [Source here](#). In other words, we get stronger every single day - hence the fear building.

I urge you all to not move SB 140 forward, and speak for myself, my community, and all those already afraid to speak.

Break this "red state" trend of division. Alaska can be better than that, and should be.

Sincerely,

Jessica D
Denali Borough, Alaska

[REDACTED]

From: Natalie Curtiss [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 12:28 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: I oppose SB 140

Hello,

My name is Natalie Curtiss. I am a resident of Anchorage, AK and I am writing to let you know that I strongly oppose the proposed SB 140, which will cause harm to transgender children by exposing their gender identity and excluding them from activities with their peers. Please do not pass this bill.

Natalie Curtiss

[REDACTED]

From: Mary Schallert [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 1:13 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

It is amazing to me that this is even something our government is voting about. Peoples sexuality is such a personal thing, it does not impact climate, starvation, a pandemic, an impending war, the education of our youth, air and water pollutions, oil companies not paying fair share of taxes, yet here we are with people in our state government wasting time trying to control the sex lives of it's people.

I know trans people, both young and old, they are some of the kindest, nicest people. They are teachers, computer specialists, students, doctors, nurses, artists. often you don't know they are trans until you become their friend and they tell you, because they are afraid of your reaction, afraid of what society will do to them or say to them. They are one of the least free people in this country.

So please, think carefully as you even consider passing this heinous bill. It is cruel, unnecessary and to be perfectly honest it is perverted. you all need to quit trying to control people's sex lives and do the work we are paying you to do. There are way too many far more important things legislatures should be doing then trying to control people's sexuality.

Sincerely,
Mary Anne Schallert
Alaskan since 1977 AND lifelong voter

[REDACTED]

From: Gavyn Shepard [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 1:16 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

I have lived in Fairbanks, Alaska my whole life and came out as trans in high school. I am against the idea of excluding trans children from sports (or other activities), especially if there is going to be an adult who is supposed to be determining the gender of children. How is that supposed to work? It sounds like checking the genitals of a minor, which is unacceptable in this circumstance. In addition to that, you are singling out these CHILDREN and traumatizing them. You are telling them they are bad for existing as they are and are purposefully trying to make their life worse. To my knowledge there have been no incidents of trans people causing problems in locker rooms, but there have been many cases of trans students, or students who dress in ways considered "unconventional" for their assigned gender, being targeted and harassed by students and faculty at schools. You are purposefully trying to create an unsafe environment for children, where they cannot express themselves without fear of being policed and kicked out of extracurriculars or school itself. I have a friend, born and raised in Alaska, who dropped out of school because of bullying from students and teachers for being queer and trans. It disgusts me that our state, who loves to talk about how much we love our FREEDOM and how all the other states impede on our rights would try so hard to impede on the rights of the youth. It is upsetting and distracting for children to be singled out like this. This is a leap in the wrong direction and anyone who supports this supports discrimination and child abuse.

Gavyn Shepard, Life long resident of Alaska aka your constituent who pays your salary

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 1:44 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

Dear Committee members,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB 140. This bill isolates and endangers transgender youth, a group already at high risk. Limiting the ability of transgender youth to participate fully in their schools and community achieves nothing but cruelty; it does not solve any actual problems. My children grew up knowing transgender youth and it enriched their lives rather than disadvantaging them.

There are real issues for education and youth in Alaska – adequate funding for schools, safe foster care systems, and poverty among them. Marginalizing transgender youth should not be on your agenda.

Sincerely,

Martha Freeman
Anchorage

[REDACTED]

From: Mary Szatkowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 5:39 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Testimony for SB-140

Hello,

My name is Mary Szatkowski. I live at 2385 Dome View Ave Fairbanks, AK. I oppose SB 140.

Youth athletics have shown to be beneficial to athletes' mental health, social development, academic performance, and physical health. For example, the Institute for the Study of Youth Sport has found that student athletes are 92% less likely to get involved with drugs, 80% less likely to become pregnant, and 3 times more likely to graduate. This benefit is seen in both cisgender and transgender demographics.

Transgender youth are at particular risk when it comes to mental health and student performance, as they face higher rates family rejection, violence, and discrimination. Trans-students who experienced discriminatory policies reported lower self-esteem and school belonging than those who had not, as well as higher rates of depression and school absenteeism. Specifically, 44% of transgender youth, versus 16% of cisgender youth, report considering suicide within a year. A 2020 survey found that 28 percent of transgender youth whose pronouns are not affirmed attempted suicide in the past year. That number decreased to 12 percent for those whose pronouns are affirmed by all or most people in their lives

The combination of transgender student participation AND acceptance within youth athletics drastically decreases the described mental health risks. Transgender and nonbinary athletes have reported higher grades than those who did not participate in sports, and LGBTQ athletes reported 20 percent lower rates of depressive symptoms. Transgender students in states with fully INCLUSIVE athletic policies are 14 percentage points less likely to have considered suicide in the past year than students in states with no guidance. The restrictions against trans kids participation in youth athletics proposed in SB-140 would directly correlate to the unwell-being, and potential death, of young Alaskans.

In the past year, many have come forth to challenge the right for trans athletes to participate in organized sports with the main argument that the integrity of cisgender girls' sports need to be protected. However, transgender athletes have always existed and have been participating for decades, without harm to girls' sports. We have NOT seen cisgender boys try to abuse trans-inclusive policies, we have NOT seen a decline in cisgender girls' accomplishments. Not only have we seen that trans-inclusive policies have no negative effect on girls' sports participation, but also that trans-exclusive policies do, as they deter both transgender and cisgender girls participation. Consider that questioning students' gender and gender performance makes both cis and trans youth uncomfortable. In states with inclusive policies, high school girls' participation in sports remained unchanged from 2011 to 2019 while in states with exclusive policies, girls' participation has decreased. In California and Connecticut, which have inclusive policies, girls' sports participation has increased, including by almost 14 percent in California from 2014 to 2020.

Overall, I oppose SB-140 for the unjust harm it would cause to future generations of Alaskans.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: Kelly Meierotto [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 6:01 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

My name is Kelly Meierotto. I live in Fairbanks Alaska. I am a former high school and college athlete and **I oppose SB 140** and the harm it would do to children in our state.

Participation in sports **CLEARLY** benefits the mental well-being of trans athletes and reduces suicidal thoughts. Excluding them from participation because of fear will have deadly consequences. Furthermore, most kids play sports simply because they are fun! They should not be subjected to any kind of scrutiny in order to play with their friends.

Excluding trans athletes for the sake of "fairness" is ridiculous and misguided. If we want to talk about fairness, let's talk about access to sports. If you truly cared about equity and justice in sports, you'd focus on uplifting marginalized groups, not on attacking them.

We're talking about children here and even at an elite level there are **NO** trans people "dominating" competition.

The reality is that biological differences (and even potential advantages) are undeniably present in sports already. That's what sports are often based upon! Bodies are, of course, different. All bodies are! But when trans folks aren't involved, people rarely call these differences "unfair." Plenty of super tall people suck at sports. Plenty of people are short and great at sports. Having certain biology does not guarantee you'll be a stellar athlete.

As far as trans women "stealing" scholarships from cis athletes, it doesn't happen. As of 2020 not a single trans woman has ever received an NCAA scholarship. Because trans people make up around 1% of the population, the fact that thousands of cis women received scholarships a year while trans women received exactly none, only further proves the discrimination against trans women.

But I've gotten off topic. We're talking about children! I want to remind you that protecting children means protecting **ALL** children. Which includes trans children.

I urge you all to oppose the harmful legislation called SB 140

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

From: Caitlyn Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 6:50 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Oppose SB 140

To the Senate Education committee,

I want to thank you for your time. My name is Caitlyn Oliver Brown and I am a constituent in Fairbanks, Alaska (zip code 99709).

I oppose SB 140. Alaska is a place for everyone to feel welcome, including our children and students. SB 140 is an invasion of students' privacy. It is discriminatory and will only cause harm to our children.

I hope you will also oppose SB 140. Thank you for your time.

Caitlyn Oliver Brown

[REDACTED]

From: Brook Beveridge [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 6:50 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

Hello,

Thank you for taking the time to read this message. My name is Brook as I am writing from Anchorage. This is in regards to SB 140, which would prevent trans youth from participating in sports. I oppose this bill and urge you to do the same. Forcing trans kids to play for the sports team of their assigned gender is traumatic and dysphoric, as well as perpetuating the falsehood that gender only includes cisgender men and cisgender women. This would also allow teachers and coaches to police whether a student is trans or not, which violates medical privacy laws, professionalism expectations, and non-discrimination laws. Denying these students the opportunity would increase risk and likelihood of mental health issues and suicide, as well as denying them the many benefits of school sports participation. There is also no scientific data to support fairness concerns regarding the participation of athletes. This also targets students of color as this bill perpetuates narrow minded stereotypes of gender and identity. Ultimately, this is just a bill targeting an already marginalized group of the population, that are also children, who as representatives you have the obligation to protect. Please protect them by opposing SB 140.
thank you again for your time,

Brook Beveridge, Anchorage AK

[REDACTED]

From: Brook Beveridge [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 6:53 PM
To: Sen. Shelley Hughes
Subject: SB 140

Hello,

Thank you for taking the time to read this message. My name is Brook as I am writing from Anchorage. This is in regards to SB 140, which would prevent trans youth from participating in sports. I oppose this bill and urge you to do the same. Forcing trans kids to play for the sports team of their assigned gender is traumatic and dysphoric, as well as perpetuating the falsehood that gender only includes cisgender men and cisgender women. This would also allow teachers and coaches to police whether a student is trans or not, which violates medical privacy laws, professionalism expectations, and non-discrimination laws. Denying these students the opportunity would increase risk and likelihood of mental health issues and suicide, as well as denying them the many benefits of school sports participation. There is also no scientific data to support fairness concerns regarding the participation of athletes. This also targets students of color as this bill perpetuates narrow minded stereotypes of gender and identity. Ultimately, this is just a bill targeting an already marginalized group of the population, that are also children, who as representatives you have the obligation to protect. Please protect them by opposing SB 140.

thank you again for your time,

Brook Beveridge, Anchorage AK

[REDACTED]

From: Alix McKee [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 7:33 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

Committee Members,

Thank you for reading my email. I am writing to strongly encourage you to oppose SB 140 regarding preventing trans youth from participating in sports.

As an educator, and a parent, I have first hand experience working with trans youth. We know that trans youth are at greater risk for suicide and mental health issues. They deserve healthy opportunities to participate in physical activity, be part of cooperative team experiences, and know that they are welcomed into sport like everyone else. It isn't appropriate for coaches and teachers to be policing the bodies of these young people. This legislation asks adults to judge whether children are feminine or girly enough, to imagine what their bodies are like. There is so much wrong with this. Instead of violating their privacy rights, we should be looking for ways to increase access to physical activity for all young people, so that they can develop into mentally and physically healthy adults. I support the participation of trans youth in school sports.

I ask you to oppose SB 140.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth McKee
Anchorage, AK 99502

[REDACTED]

From: Adam McComb [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 7:37 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Testimony for SB-140

Hello,

My name is Adam McComb. I own my home and live at 2385 Dome View Ave Fairbanks, AK. I have lived in Alaska for 14 years. I oppose SB 140.

Youth athletics have shown to be beneficial to athletes' mental health, social development, academic performance, and physical health. For example, the Institute for the Study of Youth Sport has found that student athletes are 92% less likely to get involved with drugs and 3 times more likely to graduate. I benefited greatly from my experiences at Chugiak High School on the cross country ski team.

Transgender youth are at particular risk when it comes to mental health and student performance, at they face higher rates family rejection, violence, and discrimination. Trans-students who experienced discriminatory policies reported lower self-esteem and school belonging than those who had not, as well as higher rates of depression and school absenteeism. Specifically, 44% of transgender youth, versus 16% of cisgender youth, report considering suicide within a year. A 2020 survey found that 28 percent of transgender youth whose pronouns are not affirmed attempted suicide in the past year. That number decreased to 12 percent for those whose pronouns are affirmed by all or most people in their lives

The combination of transgender student participation AND acceptance within youth athletics drastically decreases the described mental health risks. Transgender and nonbinary athletes have reported higher grades than those who did not participate in sports, and LGBTQ athletes reported 20 percent lower rates of depressive symptoms. Transgender students in states with fully INCLUSIVE athletic policies are 14 percentage points less likely to have considered suicide in the past year than students in states with no guidance. The restrictions against trans kids participation in youth athletics proposed in SB-140 would directly correlate to the unwell-being, and potential DEATH, of young Alaskans.

Overall, I oppose SB-140 for the unjust harm it would cause to future generations of Alaskans.

Thank you for your time,
Adam McComb

[REDACTED]

From: crash cleveland [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 8:11 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140 testimony

To the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Crow, I reside in Senate District L, and I oppose SB 140. As a trans student in the ASD education system, I strongly oppose this bill for it eliminates the chances of me being on a highschool sports team, which I was really looking forward to. Many of these anti-trans bills could put me in danger at school, which is supposedly a safe space for all, as well as removing me from my chance to feel any kind of positivity in school as well as any hope for our already corrupt government. As a trans student I already suffer an immense amount of dysphoria while at school and adding a bill that refuses my right to play on the team that matches my identity will just make it much worse. As well as the dysphoria there is also the chance of getting targeted for hate and oppression by my classmates and peers. I am switching schools next year and I have to decide whether or not to be out as trans. On one hand I am proud of who I am and to have a voice in my community, on the other I do not want to be discriminated against just because of who I am, this is a 'safe space' so stop creating one made for cisgender people, we deserve equality too. I am gay, trans, and disabled, I already have the odds against me in society, I don't need to be silenced anymore than I already am.

[REDACTED]

From: Kathryn Friend [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 8:43 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

Senate Education Committee Members,
Thank you for taking the time to read this email regarding SB140, which if passed would prevent transgender youth from participating in sports. I am strongly opposed to this bill and am asking you to also oppose this harmful bill. As a retired Alaskan teacher I understand the harm that can come from stigmatizing and targeting students as SB 140 would do. Please consider the emotional and social needs of our trans youth and oppose this bill.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Friend
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Steve Ex [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 9:27 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

Senators,

As a 41 year resident of Eagle River, retired educator, and a citizen believing in civil rights for everyone, I strongly urge you to oppose SB 140. For the subset of transgender youth who wish to benefit from all there is to gain by participating in school sports, just as for the subset of all youth who wish to be active in school sports, it is vital that they have equal opportunity to do so in accordance with the gender with which they identify. Although I'm not an attorney, it seems to me that SB 140 could very well violate the right to privacy explicitly included in our state Constitution.

Whether or not that is the case, there is no justifiable reason in my mind to exclude trans students from school sports. Fear of "others" has consistently worked against the betterment of society throughout human history. SB 140 seems to me to arise out of the same type of misguided fears that have led to discrimination detrimental to a group of individuals in particular as well as society as a whole. I encourage you to listen carefully to the trans community, to learn what they experience and offer, and to understand the importance of not adding another layer of discrimination to their lives.

Thank you for this opportunity and for taking my thoughts into account when you consider how to vote on SB 140. Sincerely, Steve Ex

Steve Ex
Eagle River, AK
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Kathryn Carovano [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 9:28 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

Dear Senate Education Committee Members,

Thank you for your service and for hearing my concerns. I am a parent of a teenage boy who goes to high school in Anchorage. He is not afraid of trans kids, and in fact, has some friends who have more fluid gender identities than I imagine you or I have. I think these kids are incredibly brave. They are looking for a place in the world that is not traditional, and they are not harming anyone by living differently. This Bill singles these kids out in a way that will only put more attention on them, making them more vulnerable to the bullies of the world. This is not what these children need.

SB 140 does not solve any real problems, it simply further stigmatizes trans students and threatens their privacy. I see no reason for this Bill and hope you will vote against it.

There are so many issues the State needs to work on. This is a distraction that should even be on the Legislative agenda, occupying your time.

Thank you,

Kathryn Carovano
Anchorage, AK, 99501

[REDACTED]

From: Dave Frey [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 9:54 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Kill SB 140, Support Transgender athletes

To the Senate Education Committee:

I am contacting you to speak against SB 140, the "transgender athlete discrimination bill". This bill will attack and damage vulnerable transgender students by excluding them from appropriate participation in sports according to their gender identity. All students should be encouraged to participate in sports. It's healthy and life-affirming. If transgender students are prohibited from participating in the sports teams that correspond with their gender identity, they will predictably drop out. Furthermore, it is yet another life-discounting message for them. Transgender youth already have a high rate of suicide and other mental health issues. This bill will isolate them and encourage bullying by their peers. Why are we making it harder for them?

This proposed bill will violate students' privacy rights by forcing coaches to "out" them and separate them from their peers. This is not just mean-spirited and unnecessary. It's downright cruel. I believe that this bill is part of a coordinated, nationwide effort to exclude trans people and impose their cruel, twisted, sick religious beliefs on the rest of us, damaging innocent children in the process. It is simply inexcusable! I implore you to kill SB 140.

Sincerely,
David E. Frey

[REDACTED]

From: Sarah Finnell [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 9:58 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Letter in opposition to SB 140

To the members of the Education Committee at the Alaska State Legislature-

I'm writing to voice my concern about SB 140, and the harm it will cause to young transgender Alaskans. Passing this law, which would exclude trans youth from participating in sports, not only violates their privacy by identifying them as trans, but also communicates to them that they are not welcome to participate fully in their communities. This is one of the reasons suicide rates among trans youth are so high. I have been an Educator in Fairbanks, Alaska for the past 10 years, and I see first-hand the difference between youth who are supported for who they are, and those who are excluded or rejected. **Everyone** deserves to feel welcome, supported, and affirmed in who they are. **Everyone** deserves to thrive.

This bill is exactly what our tight-knit Alaskan communities do NOT need right now. We need to support each and every child.

Thank you,

Sarah Finnell
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99709

[REDACTED]

From: Reily Dixon [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 10:21 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Opposition of SB 140

Hello,

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

I ask that you oppose SB 140.

This bill is an unacceptable violation of basic privacy rights, and not only that, this kind of bill increases trans students' risk of being bullied and or attacked which have devastating effects on mental health and suicide rates.

Please oppose SB 140 that prevents trans youth from participating in sports.

R. Dixon, Fairbanks AK, 99725.

[REDACTED]

From: Jeff Walters [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 10:23 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

To: Members of the Senate Education Committee

I urge you to oppose SB 140. Transgender students, like all people, deserve to be treated with respect and dignity. They should be allowed to participate fully in school activities, including sports.

Thank you.
Jeff Walters
Fairbanks

From: Leo Hicker [mailto:leoehicker@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 10:28 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Opposition to SB-140

Hello,

My name is Leo Hicker, I am a resident of Fairbanks Alaska, college student, and proud supporter of the LGBTQ+ community. I am writing in opposition of SB140. Our youth should be able to play sports regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. There is no reason to exclude transgender girls from girls sports teams. Furthermore, requiring coaches and teachers to determine the "biological sex" (a term long proven to be inaccurate and non-defining) of a student is a massive violation of not only the rights of trans students, but of all students. Requiring coaches and teachers to determine the "biological sex" of students wanting to play sports is directly telling coaches and teachers to, quite literally, look in the the pants of every student and make some assignment based on what they see. No one, not trans kids, not cis kids, not non-binary kids, not any kids, nor their parents want the sports coaches pulling them aside to look at their genitalia to determine what teams they are allowed to play on. To the members of the committee who may be reading this, I ask you to imagine your precious children being forced to completely reveal themselves to some random adult just to be able to participate in school sports with their friends. I very much hope that this thought makes you deeply uncomfortable and that you realize that this is what this bill would force on all of our youths.

Also, schools absolutely NEED to feel like a safe space for everyone. Bills like this one passing (or even being heard) directly target our transgender youth and loved ones. Bills like this are a direct attack on the very identities of our youths and make them feel unsafe and unwelcome. This is NOT the message we need to be sending to the people we love! For these reasons and so many more I urge you not to pass SB-140!

Please protect our kids!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Leo Hicker.

[REDACTED]

From: Chanda File [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 10:33 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: In opposition to SB140

Dear Senate Education Committee members,

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and for your service to the state of Alaska. I am an Anchorage resident writing in strong opposition to SB140.

At its core, this bill is discriminatory, unfair, and places a target on the backs of student athletes who simply want to compete as who they are. The idea that Alaska would mandate singling out transgender student athletes, violating their right to privacy and making them even more vulnerable to bullying, is simply abhorrent.

It is extremely upsetting that those seeking to discriminate against trans athletes are utilizing the 50th anniversary of Title IX as a pedestal for this bill. Trans women are women, and they are not a threat to women's sports as they exist today nor a threat to any of the progress made over the past five decades.

I am an avid fan and supporter of women's sports. Please be assured that there are many imminent threats to women's sports out there, namely, as [journalist Lindsay Gibbs](#) puts it, "a lack of investment, abusive coaches, and apathetic leaders". We have a long way to go to ensure an equal playing field in sports for all genders, and trans athletes are, and should be, welcome on that field.

Please oppose this bill.

Respectfully,
Chanda File

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 11:01 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140 response

Joyce D Parks
Fairbanks, Ak 99701

Thank you for your time review my sincere concerns regarding this bill.

I feel that SB 140 is a horrible thing to do to our young people. They are struggling enough without forcing educators & coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from other classmates. It is shamelessly discriminatory designed to exclude them from participating in public life and school activities.

This bill also stigmatize & isolate trans students, putting their health and safety at risk as well as their social & emotional development. Additionally, it impacts students of color perpetuating racist & sexual stereotypes about femininity & gender presentation.

Thank you for your time. I hope you give thoughtful consideration to this issue and do what is right.

Best regards
Joyce Parks

[REDACTED]

From: Eric Schneider [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 11:08 PM
To: Senate Education
Cc: Sen. Robert Myers; Rep. Grier Hopkins
Subject: Oppose SB 140

Leadership—

I urge you to oppose SB 140—the anti-transgender bill that specifically targets transgender girls in school sports.

That such a bill is even being considered in Alaska is a shock to me. This is a state where personal freedoms are highly valued, yet this bill brings the weight of the government unnecessarily into the relative privacy of schools and homes, forcing schools and coaches to discriminate based on an arbitrary classification of an individual. There is no medical justification for this bill. There is little to no evidence that allowing transgender girls to participate in athletics consistent with one's identity gives the participant an "unfair advantage." And, frankly, this type of legislation has no role in contemporary society.

Stop this nonsense; you have much more important things to address. Oppose SB 140. This bill needs to die in committee.

Respectfully,

Eric Schneider
Fairbanks, Alaska

[REDACTED]

From: Angie Harris [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 11:14 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Opposition to SB 140

My name is Angela Harris and I live in Anchorage, Alaska. I am sending this email in opposition of SB 140.

This bill is discriminatory and excludes transgender girls from sports and their school communities. Bills, like SB 140 heighten the risk of trans students being bullied and attacked which increases mental health issues and suicide.. There is no data to support fairness concerns when trans athletes participate, especially since .6% of people identify as trans and not all want to play sports.

Again, I oppose SB 140 and ask you to reconsider passing this hurtful and discriminatory legislation.

Thank you,

Ángela Harris
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99507

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

[REDACTED]

From: Emily Cohen [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 11:46 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: I oppose SB 140

Dear members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Emily Cohen, and I am a resident of Fairbanks. I write to you in **strong opposition to SB 140** and implore you to vote against this harmful bill. This bill would lead to egregious violations of students' personal privacy by forcing coaches and school staff to identify and separate students based on their gender identity.

Allow children to participate in sports that they choose to participate in, rather than allowing **government to encroach upon the personal and private decisions** of its citizens. Do not forget that transgender youth are your constituents as well, and it is your duty to protect them and **prevent thinly-veiled attempts to discriminate** against them from passing into law. Our energy should be spent on promoting students' education and access to enriching extracurricular activities, **rather than regulating children's access to sports by concerning ourselves with what private anatomy they possess.**

Thank you for your service to our state and for your thoughtful consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Emily Cohen, MSW

--
Emily Cohen, MSW
Student, Ph.D. Clinical-Community Psychology
University of Alaska Anchorage
Pronouns: she / her / hers

[REDACTED]

From: tamara kruse roselius [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 11:48 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB140, SB157

Senate Education Committee,

My name is Tamara Kruse Roselius and I am writing to ask you to please oppose SB140 and move SB157 forward.

In regard to SB140: I have been an advocate for children in FNSBSD for 20 yrs. I have worked with many children. What I want to share is that it is more difficult for all involved to have transgender students forced to participate in activities with their birth gender peers, rather than to allow them to participate in activities with like gender peers.

Stop for a moment and imagine the difficulties of enforcing this. Who is 'checking' the child for their birth gender and how is that done? Where? This leads to a Pandora's Box of privacy and administrative issues, particularly in view of the Alaska Constitution's strong legal protections for privacy. Legal issues will abound if this moves forward.

For successful programs, ease of administration, equity in participation, and the mental health of all involved, we need to let trans girls participate in activities with girls and trans boys participate in activities with boys. This is the opposite of what SB140 does. Trans girls, (presenting as female in personality, dress, actions, mannerisms and everything that matters) shouldn't be forced into participating with boys, and trans boys (presenting as male in the same characteristics) shouldn't be forced into participating with females. More than just uncomfortable for all participants, this would be tragic and unhealthy for all involved, leading to even more difficulties down the road.

I also urge you to move SB157 Sex Education forward and to a vote. I am on the Curriculum Committee for FNSBSD and the fact that consent is not a necessary part of sexual education, as age appropriate, is wrong. Consent, and what that means, needs to be taught explicitly. As you know, with our horrific record in Alaska concerning violence against women, teaching kids what consent means is the start of everything: learning healthy behaviors; showing respect for the opposite sex; and by proactively explaining criminal behavior, kids learn early what will get them in trouble, rather than more expensively down the road and in the court system.

Thank you
Tamara Kruse Roselius
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks AK 99709

[REDACTED]

From: Jamie Y [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 2:35 AM
To: Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Tom Begich
Cc: Senate Education; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Shelfey Hughes; Sen. Peter Micciche
Subject: SB 140 Testimony

Dear Senate Education Committee Chair Roger Holland,

My name is Jamie You. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to give testimony on SB 140. As a constituent of Anchorage, I urge you to oppose this bill.

I am a nonbinary trans man. Growing up I was on the high school fencing team, where I made many precious memories and gained confidence and discipline.

I would like for my trans sisters today and into the future to have the same opportunities I did, to represent their schools, learn leadership and teamwork with their friends, and excel in a supportive environment without fear of harassment or scrutiny.

SB 140 is unconstitutional. It violates Title Nine, which specifically prohibits discrimination or exclusion from participation in any federally funded school program on the basis of sex.

SB 140 is excessively vague. It quotes "biological sex" and does not give a definition on how that is determined. There is currently no federal consensus on the definition of "biological sex". In the absence of specific guidelines and precautions, this would legally obligate school officials to conduct invasive, inappropriate, and traumatizing interrogations of our children's bodies and their sex characteristics. This is unacceptable.

SB 140 lacks common sense. There are already many existing and specific advantages spread unevenly and dare I say unfairly within a school sports program, such as height. Fencing, as a sport, favors taller people for their longer reach, and most competitors within my weapon (epee) were tall. Yet the idea of suing a classmate for being taller than you on the grounds of "depriving you of an athletic opportunity," to use SB 140's language, is ridiculous. So why are we applying these double standards to transgender student athletes, encouraging peer harassment and stigmatization, especially in the absence of universal biological differences between trans and cis girls (e.g. not every trans girl is taller or stronger than every cis girl)-- on top of ignoring every other factor that contributes to athletic success, such as hard work and dedication?

Finally, SB 140 is out of the spirit of school sports. Telling a girl that she can't play with her friends and that she either has to play on the boys' team or not participate at all, at a critical time when she's supposed to be learning confidence, leadership and teamwork, is unconstitutional, discriminatory, and dangerous.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I would like to once more ask you to oppose SB 140.

Best regards,
Jamie You, Anchorage AK 99503

[REDACTED]

From: Emily Mesch [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 5:35 AM
To: Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Roger Holland; Senate Education
Subject: Testimony Against SB140

Members of the Senate Education Committee,

I write to tell you that I oppose SB140, and to ask that you oppose SB140 as well, for the following reasons:

- 1) It misunderstands the purpose of sport in adolescent development
- 2) It weakens Alaskans' educations and compromises our future competitiveness
- 3) It directly contravenes recent US Supreme Court precedent, and will cost the state potentially millions of dollars in legal fees

The phrase "it's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game" is largely considered a cliché, but is simultaneously the crux of this issue. I ask the members of the committee to think about their own athletic participation when they were in school, as well as those around them. I'm sure you'll find that most of your colleagues in the legislature, even most of your friends and family, participated in school sports on some level or another.

I'm also sure that you'll find that few if any of them have ever earned a dime based on their athletics. Because winning and losing isn't the purpose of school athletics: it is, as the cliché goes, how you play the game. It's about socialization and learning teamwork. It's about establishing and reaching for goals. It's about developing a sense of pride in your accomplishments, and a sense of camaraderie with those who have helped you along the way.

How fast you can run or how hard you can kick a ball will almost never factor into a person's adult life. But those more intangible interpersonal skills that one learns as they compete, even in a loss, will serve a person well for years and years.

SB140 seeks to deny these essential lessons, these life skills, to a protected class of people (as established in [Bostock v. Clayton County, 2020](#)), in deference to the fleeting experiences of winning or losing. In so doing, SB140 upends the very purpose of having athletics in schools in the first place, and sabotages the very institution.

Because, as Alaskans, we want to make sure that the crews who build our roads and our buildings know how to work together. We want to make sure they learned those lessons along with the public education that they received. We want Alaskans to innovate in ways that require teamwork, developing new techniques and tools to solve the unique problems that Alaskan communities so often face.

We want to give our state the best possible odds to succeed, because as much as we love Alaska, we know it's a little bit harder to live here than it is in the lower-48. So we need to make sure that every Alaskan gets the most that they possibly can out of our education system. Even if we don't fully understand or agree with every Alaskan.

Denying a certain protected class ([Bostock v. Clayton County, 2020](#)) the option to compete in athletics means kneecapping future Alaskan generations. It means the infrastructure we build will be that much weaker. It means the solutions we find will be that much less effective. Because it will mean we have chosen not to fully train everybody who wants to be trained. And in Alaska, we cannot afford to be anything other than our very best.

Inherent to everything I've laid out above, as can be demonstrated by the fact that I have already cited it twice, is the 2020 US Supreme Court decision in [Bostock v. Clayton County](#). I will now quote a portion of that decision, penned by

Justice Gorsuch, with emphasis added by me:

"These terms generate the following rule: An employer violates Title VII when it intentionally fires an individual employee based in part on sex. It makes no difference if other factors besides the plaintiff's sex contributed to the decision or that the employer treated women as a group the same when compared to men as a group. A statutory violation occurs if an employer intentionally relies in part on an individual employee's sex when deciding to discharge the employee. Because discrimination on the basis of homosexuality or transgender status requires an employer to intentionally treat individual employees differently because of their sex, an employer who intentionally penalizes an employee for being homosexual or transgender also violates Title VII. There is no escaping the role intent plays: Just as sex is necessarily a but-for cause when an employer discriminates against homosexual or transgender employees, an employer who discriminates on these grounds inescapably intends to rely on sex in its decisionmaking."

Title VII applies to private employers and not public institutions, and so SB140 will not have to conform to it. However, SB140 will have to conform to Title IX, which does apply to governmental institutions, and legal precedent regarding Title VII will heavily inform legal precedent regarding Title IX.

So with Justice Gorsuch's language in mind, it is impossible to see SB140 as conforming to current legal precedent. Every judge in the country will abide by the principles that Gorsuch outlines above. What that means is that SB140 will absolutely see legal challenges if passed, and potentially many of them. I am lead to understand that in recent years, the Alaska Legislature has had to pass entire supplemental budgets in order to pay legal fees of discrimination cases that the state has lost. I worry that SB140 has not been sufficiently vetted by legal experts, and I worry that such legal losses, and the costs associated with them, will only increase, and dramatically so, with the passage of SB140.

I don't know about you, but it would absolutely sicken me if the amount of the PFD had to be reduced once again in order to pay for the legal repercussions of SB140's passage. I don't know how you would explain to your constituents that you voted for a bill that extracted money from their pockets.

Any additional expenses that Alaska has to pay for will make our goals as a state that much more difficult. SB140 is essentially going to become an unbudgeted expense. And during our current financial climate, it is grossly irresponsible to add such an unaccounted-for expense to the state budget.

Please do the right thing for Alaska, and oppose SB140.

Thank you,
Emily Mesch
Juneau, AK

[REDACTED]

From: Bob Hadaway [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 6:36 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

Dear Senators,

As a retired educator, a parent, a Fairbanks community member I am writing to encourage you quash SB 140 and not bring it to a Senate vote. This bill is discriminatory against transgender students and further establishes the exclusion of children and young adults who are transgender from school activities with other students. I encourage you to work to make Alaska an inclusive state for all individuals.

Sincerely,

Bob Hadaway
Fairbanks, AK

[REDACTED]

From: Melanie Hadaway [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 6:44 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Oppose SB 140

This email is to encourage you to quash SB 140, and certainly to not advance it out of committee. It is disheartening, to say the least, to see Sen. Hughes sponsor this legislation in the first place. I'm a retired teacher and spent my life in public education, and can tell you there's no justification for it. I am **STRONGLY** opposed to SB 140.

Our schools should be safe and equitable places for ALL students. Sports and extracurricular activities in public education exist to provide enrichment to students, to support healthy lifestyles and physical activity, and to encourage positive social interaction. SB 140 denies transgender athletes those opportunities.

If nothing else, this bill should be thought of in terms of simple cost to benefit ratio. Who benefits from this bill? One biologically female athlete who wants to be first in a competition?

Who suffers from this bill.... any transgender girl who wishes to fully participate in public education experience. This bill could do direct harm in "outing" a student that many may not know is transgender. This bill does direct harm by forcing a transgender female to participate on a team of boys with which she does not share a gender identity, and which puts her at greater risk for bullying and ostracizing. This bill potentially deprives transgender students from a chance to participate in extracurriculars.

Transgender teens are our most at risk group of attempting suicide. In a state with the highest suicide rates in the country, the fact that elected political officials would do **ANYTHING** to exacerbate or cause this behavior is morally reprehensible.

We heard "conservatives" during the pandemic say the government has no business in private medical decisions. To pass this bill which violates all privacy of transgender students is not ironic, just hypocritical and wrong.

Again, please stand in strong, clear opposition to SB 140.

Melanie Hadaway
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

[REDACTED]

From: Cindy Lelake [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 6:45 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: In opposition to SB 140

Dear Senate Education Committee members:

I urge you to reject SB 140. Not only does it stigmatize and separate transgender girls from their peers, but it also violates the right of all Alaskans to the privacy guaranteed in our state constitution.

This hurtful legislation, which echoes similar bills being considered in other state legislatures, victimizes an already vulnerable adolescent population. School sports are important to the mental health and well-being of many teenagers. Division and separation of trans girls completely negate these benefits.

Please reject SB 140.

Respectfully,

Cindy Lelake
Anchorage

[REDACTED]

From: Dana Brennan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 8:13 AM
To: Senate Education; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: Oppose SB140

Greetings all and thanks for reading this,

I'm Dana Brennan. I live in zip 99709, Senate District B. I'm emailing to voice my opposition to SB 140. The consequences from the passage of SB 140 would be catastrophic for many Alaskans and their friends, family, and community. Denying trans students the ability to participate in school sports strips them of the many benefits of participating in sports, including better self-esteem, increased sense of belonging and community, a support group, and improved grades. This bill would violate basic privacy rights by requiring educators and coaches to police whether a student is trans or not, which the school is not legally or ethically authorized to do under medical privacy laws, professionalism standards, and non-discrimination laws, not to mention violates a student's sense of safety. There is no data to support the claim that trans athletes will outcompete their peers, denying them a place in the sport and hence making it "unfair." Fairness concerns when trans athletes participate are unfounded, especially since less than 0.6% of people identify as transgender and not all want to play sports. This bill will lead to the stigmatization and isolation of trans students, undermining their health, safety, and social and emotional development. Our education system should be welcoming and supportive of all it's students. These and many other reasons demonstrate the danger of SB 140. That is why I am emailing to voice my opposition to SB 140 and to ask you to oppose it as well on behalf of an Alaskan resident scared of the consequences to our trans family, friends, and neighbors.

Dana Brennan 99709

[REDACTED]

From: Abigail Pratt [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 8:25 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Oppose SB 140

My name is Abigail Pratt and I oppose SB 140.
Every child should be able to participate in sports.

[REDACTED]

From: Abigail Pratt [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 8:28 AM
To: Sen. Shelley Hughes
Subject: Oppose SB 140

My name is Abigail Pratt and I oppose SB 140.

Every child should be able to participate in sports.

[REDACTED]

From: Lin Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 8:31 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

Dear Senators:

I'm a 30 year Alaska resident. Since the 1970's I have worked for LGBTQ civil rights. It's been quite a ride. Stunning to review our history and the arguments that hostile groups have dreamed up about us. Remember Anita Bryant and her Save The Children?

Now we really do need to save the children.

All kids are up for self-scrutiny and public scrutiny when trans kids are getting called out for being less than, not really okay.

As an 80 yo, I am sorting my saved articles and photos showing our perilous American LGBTQ journey. Preparing to donate them to museums.

Currently state legislatures are under siege with anti trans bills. Think-tanks have dreamed up new ways to target trans people - cut trans athletes from any competition, especially trans girls/women. That's cruel.

Sports helped me get through my schooling. I was shy and unconfident. Field hockey taught me teamwork, hard work, gave me lifelong friends.

Trans athletes competed at the China Olympics. No problems surfaced. Trans women have been competing for years around the globe. Not many have been winners. Trans women have not taken over women's sports. No problem here.

Political think-tanks want to make people frightened. Frightened voters will make sure to vote, and as German politicians said in the 1930's, frightened people can be made to do anything.

Alaskans are not going to buy this divisive tactic.

We want to be fellow Alaskans working together to solve our daily challenges of climate change, infrastructure, better educational opportunities and ways to solve the high rates of Alaskan domestic violence.

SB 140 doesn't help with any of our basic Alaska daily living challenges. Just say No to this cruel tactic.

West Virginia and Connecticut trans girls/women have won their court cases and can compete in sports.

Idaho is the only state to pass a SB 140. Yep, a judge halted it and declared this tactic was harmful to trans girls and ALL girls- constitutional privacy violations. We're staying tuned for the appeal.

As we watch so much violence in the news, please remember that trans kids report very high daily physical and emotional violence. Black trans girls/women and trans POC are the most vulnerable- high rates of murder.

Alaskans do not want legislation that makes some of us more vulnerable to disparagement and lifelong fear of violence.....for being your true self.

Thank you for considering these ideas.

Lin Davis

30 year Juneau resident

[REDACTED]

From: Rebecca Dunne [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 9:07 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

Dear Senators,

Please accept this testimony AGAINST SB 140. This bill is clearly discriminatory against some of our most vulnerable students. There is no reason - except blatant fear and hatred of real, vulnerable children - to isolate trans kids in this way. This bill will only increase bullying and attacks against trans kids. As the education committee, you should be primarily concerned with protecting children, not encouraging attacks against them.

Please vote against SB 140.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Dunne
Fairbanks, AK 99709

--

Rebecca Dunne (she/her)
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Christopher Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 9:22 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

To whom it may concern,

My name is Christopher Davis and I live in Wasilla, AK. I am an educator licensed in the states of Alaska and Texas who has concerns about SB140. As someone who is in the schools on a weekly basis I see students who are trying to find themselves everywhere. Among those students there are people who are trying to understand why their brains don't match their bodies and thus they have gender dysphoria. These students, for the most part, are accepted by their peers and some elect to begin the process of social, that is non-hormonal, transition. They start to dress as their preferred gender and some adopt a chosen name that is congruent with their preferred gender. However, there are also students that see their classmates as they pursue this social transition that openly and often loudly proclaim that what is going on is an abomination and that the student who is trying to navigate life should be chastized. In addition to social transition, there is medical transition which, at time of writing, is illegal for people under the age of 18. Yes puberty blockers exist and, according to all known credible research, are safe. However, adding to the stigmatism that our transgender students face on a daily basis will only end poorly.

The proposed bill, if passed, would only give the students who are bullying more ammunition while further constraining the actions that the school staff can do to support their students. In addition, by cutting off the opportunity to engage in extracurricular activities, in the case of SB 140 sports, students are told that they are not worth anything and that they do not matter.

Speaking from personal experience on the matter of gender dysphoria, it is a powerful thing that weighs a person experiencing it down until they are nothing but an empty shell going from day to day in some instances or, in worst case situations they commit suicide.

I am urging you, on behalf of my students, please do not pass SB 140. These kids, these humans should not be made to feel unwelcome in our schools.

Thank you for your time,
Christopher Davis

From: T Stewart [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 9:25 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Opposing SB140

Dear legislatures,

My name is Taylor Stewart I live in Anchorage, Alaska. I am a current sophomore and I am here opposing SB140. I am a nonbinary student and I am friends with many trans people. We are all human. I am a person no different than you, even though I am a nonbinary lesbian I am the same amount of human as anyone else. And the fact is legislation like this is causing the death of your fellow human beings. Trans people have one of the highest rates of suicide and those rates will only increase with legislation like SB140. In our schools we place extreme value on sports, funding them and advertising their games and sports are a large part of student life. There are so many benefits of sports that trans people won't be able to experience because of this legislation. Trans people already face so much discrimination at school on the daily while trying to balance being a regular student, coming out to friends and family, being able to deal with the transphobia of loved ones, and seeing all of the legislation that shows that this world doesn't care about them. All of these things are what lead trans teens to suicide. Legislation like this shows non-trans students it is okay to bully, discriminate, and even attack or assault trans people. If someone is old enough to take themselves out of this world they are old enough to want to play on a different gender team. There is no data that supports the idea that it is unfair for trans students to play on the team of their gender. All this legislation does is promote transphobia and detract attention from the actual issues in gendered sports like unequal funding and resources. Save the lives of teens just trying to feel comfortable in their skin. This is why I am asking you to let trans students play on their team and oppose SB140.

Thank you for your time,
Taylor Stewart

[REDACTED]

From: Laura Volmert [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 9:30 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Opposition for SB 140

I urge this committee not to adopt SB 140, a blatantly discriminatory bill which puts trans youth at risk. Transgender youth are at much higher risk of mental health issues and suicide, primarily due to the bullying and discrimination they face in daily life. This bill encourages the kind of anti-trans attitudes that make life for trans youth difficult. Additionally, it violates privacy laws by requiring coaches and teachers to police the gender of students.

I am the parent of a transgender child who graduated from Lathrop High School in Fairbanks last year. Thanks to a handful of very supportive teachers in the school, my child was able to have a positive high school experience. These sorts of anti-trans bills chill my heart, because I know on a very personal level how challenging it is to be a trans kid in this state. Please consider what is best for kids, and do not legislate discrimination.

Laura Volmert
519 Bonnifield St.
Fairbanks, AK 99701

--

Laura Volmert
She/her/hers

"You can either practice being right or practice being kind." -Anne Lamott

[REDACTED]

From: Janell Hafner [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 9:41 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Opposition to SB 140

I'm writing to express my strong opposition. To SB 140 and encourage the committee to vote against it. The bill is a discriminatory attack on our children and needlessly divisive, and it is a deep infringement on the privacy rights of Alaskan children.

I encourage the committee to focus on bringing children together, promoting and supporting f educational opportunities for all, and promoting the well-being of all Alaskan youth, not marginalizing and penalizing them. I strongly oppose this bill and ask that you do the same.

Thank you,
Janell Hafner
Juneau, Alaska

[REDACTED]

From: Marina Day [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 9:42 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB140

Dear Senate Education Committee;

Please do not pass SB140 out of committee.

This bill is not only illegal, it also harms transgender youth.

Minimizing their existence with an imposition of a narrow and unscientific definition of "sex" only leads to mental health issues and self harm.

Our youth need to be loved and accepted to thrive.

Educators and Coaches want to Educate and Coach. They do not want to engage in policing the gender of students.

Do not legislate opportunities for pedophilia.

Lawmakers need to focus on serving the people not bullying children.

Marina Day
Fairbanks North Star Borough

[REDACTED]

From: Erika Partlow [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 9:42 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: HB 140

Hello esteemed Senators, I have never participated in government in this way before, but I feel strongly enough about this bill to share my thoughts with all of you today. I was born and raised in Juneau and now split time between there and Fairbanks. I strongly oppose SB 140 and here is why: growing up in Juneau when I did was wonderful in many ways and also very difficult in many others. I suffered from long bouts of clinical depression and there were times that I felt compelled to take my own life. One of the things I credit for my survival is the community I found in the school activity in which I was involved in high school. I believe that it literally saved my life. Therefore, I very strongly oppose SB 140. Please consider the children who are like I was and don't take away the one thing that might save their lives.

Sincerely and respectfully, Erika Partlow

[REDACTED]

From: Marina Day [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 9:44 AM
To: Sen. Shelley Hughes
Subject: SB 140

Dear Senator Hughes,

Please do not pass SB140 out of committee.

This bill is not only illegal, it also harms transgender youth.

Minimizing their existence with an imposition of a narrow and unscientific definition of "sex" only leads to mental health issues and self harm.

Our youth need to be loved and accepted to thrive.

Educators and Coaches want to Educate and Coach. They do not want to engage in policing the gender of students.

Do not legislate opportunities for pedophilia.

Lawmakers need to focus on serving the people not bullying children.

Marina Day
Fairbanks North Star Borough

[REDACTED]

From: Liz Furman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 9:46 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: NO to SB 140

I am writing to state my strong opposition of SB 140.

I am an education, and I've worked in the Fairbanks Northstar Borough School District for eight years. I can absolutely confirm that SB 140 is a blatantly discriminatory bill designed to exclude transgender girls from participating fully in sports and school community. This bill will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Additionally, it will have a severe negative psychological effect on those students who are already the most vulnerable. Our LGBTQ students have the highest depression and suicide rates, and this dehumanizing bill will only work to further exclude and traumatize them.

This bill is widely opposed by Alaskans, especially those of us that work in sports and education. Please, NO SB 140!!

Elizabeth Furman
Fairbanks, Alaska

[REDACTED]

From: Polly Carr-Anaya [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 9:56 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Comments in opposition to SB140

Dear Chair Holland and members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Polly Carr, and I've lived in South Anchorage for twenty years. I am writing to oppose Senate Bill 140. This is a discriminatory bill designed to exclude trans gender girls from sports and the school community. And it will violate the privacy of students by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Growing up, young people already face a myriad of obstacles in developing self-acceptance, self-esteem, and feeling like they are loved and they belong. In the past two years, the mental and emotional health of young people in Alaska and throughout the country has plummeted. Alaska already has one of the highest suicide rates among Alaskan adolescents. A study in 2019 (pre-pandemic) of high school students showed that one quarter had considered suicide, and almost 20% had attempted.

Policies that seek to further discriminate, separate, and alienate young people will do nothing but harm them. Why would lawmakers consider such a cruel piece of legislation, and why at this time?

My 11 year old had this to say: "try your best not to mis-gender anyone. Make the environment as safe as possible."

Our young people know that it's right to be kind and compassionate.

Please do not let this destructive bill move forward. Thank you.

Polly Carr
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

--
Polly Carr
[REDACTED]

From: Krysta Daniel [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 9:59 AM
To: Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Roger Holland
Subject: Please Oppose SB 140

Hello Senators,

My name is Krysta Daniel, I am an Anchorage resident (99502). Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts on, and opposition to, SB 140.

I urge you all to please oppose this incredibly offensive and harmful bill. Imagine if the 'tables' were turned and 'straight' children were under attack. That thought is *inconceivable* because collectively as a society wouldn't allow it. So why do we allow the harassment of our vulnerable transgender youth? Because they're an easy target? Is that who we really are as a society? I truly believe we're better than that.

Alaskans pride themselves on being fiercely independent and value our privacy. What is more private and integral to your independence than deciding for yourself who you are and how you present yourself to the world?

I see no Alaskan Values in SB 140 whatsoever. Alaskans stand together, fight for our rights and independence and are kind together. SB 140 shows no kindness to mere children trying to just be kids having fun and staying active.

Growing up I was always encouraged and supported in my desires to do any and all sports and activities I wanted to. The memories, life lessons, friends made, and confidence gained during those years cannot be understated. Why would we take that away from our trans youth?

Claiming that "SB 140 stands for an equal opportunity for all" is frustratingly false and misleading. SB 140 would actively discriminate against our trans youth. It is our responsibility as adults to teach children the values and ethics of good people, this teaches our children the exact opposite.

***Please oppose SB 140, it is not the Alaskan way. ***

Thank you,

Krysta Daniel

Anchorage Resident, 99502

[REDACTED]

From: Charlie Kvapil [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 10:03 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140 Opposition

Hi, my name is Charlie Kvapil, I live in the 99701 area of Fairbanks. I oppose the SB 140 bill, as I think it is a deep violation of children's rights to the bare minimum of physical privacy by trying to bar them from sports and having an adult who is not even related to them inspect their naked body. This is a terrible idea and absolutely should not pass.

I hope the senate will do the right thing.

[REDACTED]

From: Marlowe Scully [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 10:05 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

Good morning!

Thank you so much for your time and energy in Juneau. My name is Marlowe. I'm a resident of Anchorage (Senate District J) writing to inform you that I oppose Senate Bill 140.

This bill is attempting to solve a problem that simply does not exist. The percentage of students in Alaska who ID as trans is incredibly small. Not all of those students are interested in engaging with sports. The resources, time and money that would be spent on enforcing this bill would be wasted. Our efforts should be focused on data-driven projects and student needs, not unjustified fear.

Thank you again for your time,
Marlowe Scully

[REDACTED]

From: Marina Crabb [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 10:05 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

Hello,
I am emailing to testify against SB 140.
Trans youth in alaska deserve equal access to sports without fear of discrimination.

thank you,
Marina Crabb

[REDACTED]

From: Jesse Guzman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 10:06 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: I oppose SB 140

Hello,

My name is Jesse and I'm a mother living in Anchorage, AK. My oldest child is currently in 8th grade. I oppose SB 140 and beg the education committee to vote against it because of the detrimental impact it will definitely have on the safety and privacy of all Alaskan children, not just trans kids, though it is my firmly held belief that the impact on trans kids is enough of a reason to vote this bill down. Children of color will disproportionately be impacted by any bill that targets trans children, as evidenced by the amount of black adult cis-women runners who are accused of being assigned male at birth or are forced to go on hormone therapy to change their natural hormone levels to be able to continue racing.

Trans children are amongst our most vulnerable people and deserve the privacy and respect of anyone else in our society. Further, any bill that targets them is a threat to all of us. We all have a right to privacy, and to vote for any bill that would put educators and coaches in the position of trying to determine the gender of our children violates that privacy.

Please, when considering the safety of our children, consider how this bill will negatively impact them.

Thank you,

Jesse Guzman

[REDACTED]

From: Lisa Bricker [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 10:11 AM
To: Senate Education; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Rep. Andy Josephson
Subject: SB 140

Hello,
I oppose SB 140, regarding transgender students' right to participate fully in their education through organized sports. There are several serious issues with this bill.

It requires coaches and teachers to determine or discover who transgender students are. This violates medical privacy.

It requires coaches and teachers to discriminate against a very small minority of students.

It encourages other students to discriminate against those students in any other arena, having seen it sanctioned by adult authority figures.

These are not professional athletes; they're students. They're children. They're at varying levels of personal/biological development which differ greatly throughout their time in school--this means they're already very different even at the same age or grade level. The inequity this bill seeks to prevent in competition is actually being exacerbated on a very personal and debilitating level by all levels of society.

Please vote against SB 140 to protect all students' rights to remain just students--in their peers', mentors', communities', and lawmakers' eyes.

Thank you,
Lisa Bricker
Midtown Anchorage resident (99507)
Representatives: Elvi Gray-Jackson, Andy Josephson

From: Mary Szatkowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 10:11 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Testimony against SB-140

Hello, my name is Mary Szatkowski. I live in 99709 Fairbanks, AK. I oppose SB 140. I participated in youth sports from 2nd grade through 12th grade. Being a member of these teams was an extremely formative experience. It helped me build confidence, learn the value of commitment and teamwork, bond with classmates, and kept me both physically and mentally healthy. The ability to participate was an incentive for me and my teammates to arrive at school on time every day and keep our grades up. My choices for college were expanded by the opportunity to be recruited for competition at the higher level. Overall, my participation in youth sports fostered lifelong friendships, hobbies, social skills, and my education. Beyond my personal experience, organized sports have been shown to improve students' mental health, social development, academic performance, and physical health. The opportunity to participate in youth sports is life-changing for many students, and should not be limited to anybody based on gender identity. I therefore oppose SB-140.

SB-140 would make it such that transyouth are not allowed to play for the team aligned with their gender identity. Denying students gender affirmation is a form of mental abuse, and would prevent participation from transyouth in sports. Transgender youth are at particular risk when it comes to mental health and student performance - they are 3 times as likely to contemplate suicide than their cisgender classmates. Studies have shown that transyouth who are welcomed and affirmed in all aspects of their life, including sports, have lower rates of depression and suicidal thoughts. Additionally, transgender students involved in athletics have reported higher grades and lower rates of depressive symptoms than those not involved. Transgender students in states with fully INCLUSIVE athletic policies are 14 percent less likely to have considered suicide in the past year than transyouth in states with no guidance. The restrictions against trans kids participation in youth athletics proposed in SB-140 would directly correlate to the unwell-being, and potential death, of young Alaskans. I therefore oppose SB-140.

The sponsor statement for SB-140 put forth to the legislature cites justification of protecting girls' sports. I counter with the fact that in the last ten years, high school girls' participation in sport remained unchanged or increased in states with inclusive policies, but DECREASED in states with trans-exclusive policies. SB-140 would harm the experience of organized sports for all Alaskan youth.

Thank you for your time

[REDACTED]

From: Jane Dunn [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 10:14 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

I write to you today asking that you oppose SB 140.

I understand the perspective of attempting to preserve Title X and encourage that preservation of Women's access to sports.

However, it is misinformed to believe that tran youth somehow pose a distinct disadvantage to title X and young athletes. The fact of the matter is that all individuals have varying levels of hormones in their bodies, varying stature, flexibility and even gut microbiomes that enhance or reduce their success and abilities in athletics. If we were to decide that trans women cannot participate in women's athletics, why would we not also be saying that one can only participate in volleyball or basketball if they are of a certain height? Height is a physical characteristic and doesn't mean that one is inherently better at these sports. Likewise, the gender that someone is assigned at birth has no real verified advantage in their athletic abilities.

Thank you for your time, I hope that you choose to vote to protect the rights of all youth with an understanding of what that means.

Sincerely,

Jane M Dunn

[REDACTED]

From: Jen Gunderson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 10:17 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

I had planned to testify at the hearing today, but suddenly public testimony is not an option, so I'm writing a letter instead.

I am against SB 140 which I consider to be an attack on trans CHILDREN

You have no idea of the potential harm you could cause CHILDREN with this.

Have you anything better to do with your time and energy besides attacking CHILDREN?

What you are doing is following the national conservative playbook without any consideration for actual people in order to score political points.

This bill is SHAMEFUL and I'm looking forward to seeing it fail.

[REDACTED]

From: Taylor Feightner [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 10:23 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

To whom it may concern,

This bill is part of a coordinated attack on transgender student athletes across the country. Like so-called "bathroom bills," these policies attempt to erase and exclude trans people from sports, school communities, and all aspects of public life.

These kinds of policies are terminal for trans youth and lawmakers that endorse them are nothing but amoral bystanders at best and murderers at worst.

Consider the health and safety of these athletes above your own agenda or personal, flawed ideology.

Taylor Feightner MSW,MAIS

--
Taylor Feightner
pronouns: they/them
MSW; MAIS
Co-Director of Programming, Bethel Choosing Our Roots

Choosing Our Roots serves communities throughout the unceded territories of the Indigenous Peoples of Alaska. We acknowledge the ancestral & present knowledge of the peoples of these territories.

[REDACTED]

From: Laurie Walton [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 10:26 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

To the Senate Education Committee:

I am contacting you to speak against SB 140, the "transgender athlete discrimination bill". SB 140 is a bill that specifically targets trans girls who play school sports. This bill will attack and damage vulnerable transgender students by excluding them from appropriate participation in sports according to their gender identity. All students should be encouraged to participate in sports. It's healthy and life-affirming. It is yet another life-discounting message for them. Transgender youth already have a high rate of suicide and other mental health issues. This bill will isolate them and encourage bullying by their peers.

This proposed bill will violate students' privacy rights by forcing coaches to "out" them and separate them from their peers. This is not just mean-spirited and unnecessary. It's downright cruel. I believe this is a nationwide effort to exclude trans people and damage innocent children in the process. It is simply inexcusable!

I implore you to kill SB 140.

Sincerely,
Laurie Walton

[REDACTED]
Faribanks, AK 99712

"The best way out is always through" - *Robert Frost*

[REDACTED]

From: Brianna King [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 10:30 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

My name is Brianna Bowman King, I live in northeast Anchorage. Thank you for your time today.

I am in strong opposition to SB 140.

The language of this bill gives the impression that there is a consensus on the term 'biological sex', which is not true and dangerous to put in to legislation. 'Biological sex' is a term used by those advocating for anti-trans legislation, a term that sounds legitimate but is not. They claim that it is based in science; it is unequivocally not. There are [many, many resources](#) available by credible experts that explain why ['biological sex' is meaningless](#).

This bill would severely violate students' privacy. Being a young person is already a tumultuous time for a vast majority, adding on top of that a bill that singles out a trans student for the very thing that is likely already adding some complications to their life would be detrimental to their mental health. Suicide rates are incredibly high in the trans community.

Not to mention that the likelihood of this situation occurring is incredibly rare - less than .6% of people identify as transgender to begin with, many arrive at this identity after high school, and not all transgender people want to play sports.

This bill is discriminatory and bigoted at worst, and - I am hesitant to say best - at the very least is not worth the time and resources. I am strongly opposed to SB 140, a piece of legislation based on a reactive moral panic rooted in small-mindedness, ignorance and fear of a world full of continuums rather than categories.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

From: Will Troshynski [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 10:37 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB140 Testimony

Hello,

My name is Will Troshynski. I live in Two Rivers, Alaska (my zip code is 99712). Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony.

I oppose SB140.

My spouse and I own and operate a ATA0 Kennel. Last March I was the first out trans person to finish the Iditarod.

I grew up in Alaska and attended public schools in Big Lake and Wasilla. Sports have always been a big part of my life. I played basketball, ran in cross country, studied karate for 10 years, and participated in archery. Some of my sports were school-sports, and some weren't. School sports, however, were an essential way for me to form bonds with my classmates, and to learn to work in a team to achieve goals.

I was not out as a trans person in my youth, because I did not feel safe.

The experience of having to pretend to be something you are not-- in my case, to be a "girl,"-- eats away at you day by day. You are faced with a terrible choice every morning. Today, do I wake up and actively deny who I am? Do I conform to the rules of society for the gender I'm "supposed to be"? The alternative means your safety is very much at risk. People can be extremely cruel. If someone does not follow the rules for how gender is supposed to look or seem, people can be violent, mean, exclusionary. Look at this bill: it is aiming specifically to exclude kids from participating in sports, a huge social bonding and skills-building experience. If I was out as a trans kid in my youth, this is the kind of pushback I would have to deal with. When you are told "you don't belong" or "your existence is incorrect," especially by adults, especially by authority figures, especially by your government, you begin to consider a third option every morning: the option of "how to get out of this trap." I'm talking about being suicidal. I considered this option-- and made several attempts-- in my teens and young adulthood. I veered towards this option even though I was not out, because the act of denying who I was was suffocating my soul, and the idea of being open terrified me.

I am not alone in being a trans person who has been suicidal and attempted suicide.

Bills like SB140 do a lot of things. Their very existence-- much less their confirmation-- tell trans kids that who they are is wrong. It also makes bullying of trans kids even more palatable to their peers. After all, if the government can exclude trans kids from sports, why should kids have to tolerate trans kids elsewhere? The biggest social authority around is giving permission to do and say whatever to trans kids. So, trans kids who are out are further hurt by society. By their peers and potentially by every authority figure around them, including their government. And trans kids who are not out see the horror of being out grow.

But I will tell you from experience that once you are able to be who you *actually* are, going back feels more impossible than anything else. Trying to stuff down, hide, be untrue to your identity is soul-killing. I do not say that lightly.

So now those trans kids are faced with an even more difficult and painful choice each morning. Live in that space of self-denial and making themselves smaller and less real every day. Live in a society where hatred for you is government sanctioned. Or, the third choice.

When you, the government, put negative pressure on the choice to live and participate in society, the third choice becomes bigger and bigger. You are forcing kids who are already struggling, by the very nature of what it means to be other than what society expects and demands, towards unforgivable darkness.

Trans kids deserve space to be themselves. They deserve space to participate in social settings in a way that is not full of hatred and fear. They deserve to just be *kids*.

Whatever good this bill believes it does, I don't understand how it can be worth pushing children towards the all-too-real feeling that the only way is out, that it's better to be gone from a society that is not going to accept you as you are, and gone from the world.

I hope you will consider carefully the weight and pressure this bill enforces on the children it affects-- not just within the realm of sports, but in the entire sphere of their lives, and especially upon their choice every morning, to live.

Thank you again for your time.

Will

--

Will Troshynski

ATAO Kenne!

Adventure. Truth. Accountability. **Onward.**

[REDACTED]

From: Gretchen Gordon [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 10:57 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to SB 140

Good morning, members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Gretchen Gordon and I reside in Fairbanks.

I was saddened to learn that public testimony was pulled from your agenda at the last minute not allowing the public to weigh in on SB 140 this morning, Thursday, March 3 at 10:00 a.m.

I would like to take the opportunity to express my concern with this bill in writing, and also express additional concern that this email will likely never reach your eyes to only be handled by an aide.

But here goes. I oppose Senate Bill 140 and here's why:

Senate Bill 140 is the result of another directive from the Christian Nationalist and America First coordinated movement to rid our country of anything that is not white, straight, and Christian.

Senate Bill 140 is blatantly discriminatory; sickeningly so. And might I add, quite unoriginal. It's sad to see Alaska jump on the bandwagon of hate. Alaska is better than this. Or so I thought.

Senate Bill 140 is designed to oppress and exclude transgender girls from participating fully in sports and the school community and frankly meets your needs to attempt to erase transgender youth. Not only is its goal to exclude and erase, but also to humiliate transgender youth by violating students' right to privacy. You know this because you wrote it this way. That's pretty gross.

Well, gentlemen, transgender youth are not erasable. Your attempts to exclude them will backfire. Invasion of privacy is illegal and damages for mental suffering are recoverable without the necessity of showing actual physical injury in a case of a willful invasion of the right of privacy.

These students are active. They are stronger than you can imagine. They will be voting soon. As will their peers, their teachers, and their parents.

Please be better than this.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Regards,

Gretchen Gordon

[REDACTED]

From: Michael Hooper [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 11:17 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB140

My name is Michael Hooper I am a resident of Fairbanks Alaska.

I am emailing to testify against SB140. The senate education committee and the rest of the legislature should focus on real issues with the state of education in Alaska rather than pandering bigoted legislation like this just designed to hurt an already neglected minority of students in Alaska.

Michael Hooper

From: Samuel Reyes [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 11:18 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: OPPOSE SB 140

Good Morning,

My name is Samuel, I live in Fairbanks, Alaska and I vehemently oppose SB 140 and you should as well.

Denying transgender students the ability to participate in sports and withing activities in the community strips them of the privacy to the bodies that every other student is allowed to have. It unfairly paints a target on them and can make them much more vulnerable to harassment, assault, and even attempted suicide.

This bill will hurt the children of this community by alienating children that just want to be children. Their orientation of gender is not something that they should be singled out or attacked for, especially since a handful of these children might not even be safe in their own homes.

I am also a transgender man, and this bill is a blatant display of discrimination against the trans community, where we are already vulnerable as it is. This bill is dangerous because it will hurt children, it will kill children.

All children should have personal privacy and rights to their own bodies, and all children should be allowed to participate in sports, regardless of gender orientation because the benefits of socialization will make them happier, more fulfilled children.

Oppose SB 140 and help to protect and save the lives of trans kids.



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: Sierra Moskios
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 11:39 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Testifying on SB 140

To whom this may concern,

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. Start your email by thanking the legislator(s) for reading your email. My name is Sierra Moskios (she/her) and I live in Homer, Alaska. "I ask you to oppose SB 140 regarding preventing trans youth from participating in sports." I am an Alaska Afterschool Program coordinator and work with countless LGBTQIA+ Youth each day as well as run an LGBTQIA+ support group. I have seen firsthand what the isolation and erasure of trans youth can do to their mental health, performance in schools, and their home life. This bill would do exactly that, erase their existence and put them in greater harm, and socially isolate them. Honoring a teen's identity is proven to save lives. According to the Trevor Project,

- "Much of LGBTQ+ youth lack access to affirming spaces, with only half of LGBTQ youth reporting that their school is LGBTQ-affirming and only 1 in 3 saying that their home is LGBTQ-affirming. The Trevor Project's research consistently finds that LGBTQ young people report lower rates of attempting suicide when they have access to LGBTQ-affirming spaces. LGBTQ youth are not inherently prone to suicide risk because of their sexual orientation or gender identity but rather placed at higher risk because of how they are mistreated and stigmatized in society."

I urge you NOT to consider or pass the SB 140 bill. This would be incredibly dangerous and harmful to not only the youth, but their friends, families, and communities.

Thank you for hearing my request.

Sincerely,
Sierra Moskios. Homer, Alaska

[REDACTED]

From: Nekoda Cooper <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 12:07 PM
To: Senate Education

My name is Nekoda Cooper. I live in Kenai, Alaska and I oppose SB 140. Discrimination against transgender people and youth is wrong. They deserve the same opportunities as everyone else. Cisgender people do not have to comment on their sex/gender in able to participate in sports or any other activities. Why should transgender people be forced to? Transgender people are equal to every other citizen, and deserve the same rights.--
Nekoda Cooper

[REDACTED]

From: Katy Ruff Soden [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 12:59 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Oppose SB 140

Dear Members of the Senate Education Committee:

I am an Alaska resident and voter living in Anchorage. I am writing to express my opposition to SB 140. I feel very strongly that this bill would be harmful to trans youth. LGBTQ+ youth suffer some of the highest rates of suicide and other mental health issues among youth. This bill would only cause further harm to an already vulnerable population in need of support, protection, and inclusion. Additionally, this bill would violate the privacy of all Alaskan children. As a spouse of a public school teacher and parent of a public school student, I know that there are so many areas of focus for this committee to improve educational outcomes for Alaskan kids. SB 140 is not one of them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards, Katy Soden

[REDACTED]

From: Katie McClellan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 1:05 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Opposition to SB140

Hello,

I'm emailing to express my opposition to SB140. As the Senate Education Committee, you are tasked with making decisions that ensure the health, wellbeing, education, and success of Alaska's students. You are NOT tasked with determining their gender or their worthiness of playing sports with a team that matches their gender identity.

As an educator in Fairbanks, I am so disgusted to see this type of legislation being considered in our state and in our schools. The youth that I have worked with, including those of a queer identity, have done nothing to deserve this type of discrimination. According to the Trevor Project and US Gov statistics on youth health, queer youth are FOUR TIMES more likely to consider, plan, and attempt suicide compared to their straight, cisgender peers. Queer and trans youth need MORE support from educators, lawmakers, and their peers, particularly in conservative states like Alaska where they may already feel unwelcome and unsafe.

Barring trans youth from playing on sports teams that match their gender identity will only further alienate and harm their wellbeing. According to the President's Council on Sports, Fitness, & Nutrition Science Board, participation in sports not only improves physical health, but 73% of participants and their families reported improved mental health and wellbeing as a result of their participation, including lower rates of stress and anxiety, lower rates of suicidality, lower rates of substance abuse or risky behavior, and overall improvement in confidence and self-esteem. Trans youth should not be barred from receiving these critical health benefits of sport, nor should they be excluded from the opportunity to build team skills, camaraderie, develop friendships, or receive mentorship from a team environment that reflects and affirms their gender identity.

My additional concerns with this proposal include the determination of a student's gender. WHO has decided that coaches should be determining this? What credentials or medical training or experience will these coaches have? How would these determinations be made? Questionnaires? Physical exams? How dare you expose vulnerable youth to sexual harassment or assault just so you can decide whether or not they're a boy or a girl and deserve to be on this team or that team. What is happening in a child's body is the business of that child, their family, and their doctor, NOT their coach, and NOT the state legislature of Alaska.

This bill is an embarrassment to the state of Alaska, to the ideals of liberty and independence that define this state's culture, and is a disgusting offense to thousands of youth in this state who identify as queer or trans. You should all be ashamed for pushing this discriminatory effort through our government and our schools.

Respectfully,
Katie McClellan
Fairbanks, AK

[REDACTED]

From: Katie McClellan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 1:22 PM
To: Sen. Shelley Hughes
Subject: SB140

Hello Ms. Hughes,

I'm emailing to express my opposition to SB140, and my disappointment in your bigoted testimony supporting the passage of this bill. As a former educator, you should understand that in a school, you are tasked with making decisions that ensure the health, wellbeing, education, and success of Alaska's students. You are NOT tasked with determining their gender or their worthiness of playing sports with a team that matches their gender identity.

As an educator in Fairbanks, I am so disgusted to see this type of legislation being considered in our state and in our schools. The youth that I have worked with, including those of a queer identity, have done nothing to deserve this type of discrimination. According to the Trevor Project and US Gov statistics on youth health, queer youth are FOUR TIMES more likely to consider, plan, and attempt suicide compared to their straight, cisgender peers. Queer and trans youth need MORE support from educators, lawmakers, and their peers, particularly in conservative states like Alaska where they may already feel unwelcome and unsafe.

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Screw your bigoted ideology and inability to see, love, and affirm a child in their identity, whether or not it fits into your ideas of who or what a person should be. Where are your Christian values of love? Where is your demonstration of Young Life's mission of supporting the health and diversity of ALL kids? Of modeling acceptance and love for ALL kids? ALL kids. No exceptions. You are "not transphobic"? You "love and value every person, including these individuals"? These are YOUR WORDS. Today. During your testimony. Yet if any of these claims were true, you would not be supporting this bill.

This bill is an embarrassment to the state of Alaska, to the ideals of liberty and independence that define this state's culture, and is a disgusting and dangerous offense to thousands of youth in this state who identify as queer or trans. You should be ashamed for supporting this discriminatory effort, and you should be ashamed that your bigotry is blinding you in the face of opportunities to truly love, affirm, and support the youth of Alaska.

Not respectfully,

Katie McClellan
Fairbanks, AK

[REDACTED]

From: sarah lilly [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 2:29 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140 testimony

Hello,
My name is Sarah Lilly and I live in Fairbanks and I strongly oppose SB 140
Thank you

[REDACTED]

From: Cari Zawodny [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 2:33 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Opposed to SB140

Good afternoon Chair Holland and members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Cari Zawodny, and I've lived in both Anchorage and Eagle River over the past 33 years. I also work in youth service as a contact employee with several non-profits. I oppose Senate Bill 140. This is a blatantly discriminatory bill designed to exclude trans gender girls from sports and the school community. And it will violate the privacy of students by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Growing up, young people already face a myriad of obstacles in developing self-acceptance, self-esteem, and feeling like they are loved and they belong. In the past two years, the mental and emotional health of young people in Alaska and throughout the country has plummeted. Alaska already has one of the highest suicide rates among Alaskan adolescents. A study in 2019 (pre-pandemic) of high school students showed that one quarter had considered suicide, and almost 20% had attempted.

Policies that seek to further discriminate, separate, and alienate young people will do nothing but harm them. Why would lawmakers consider such a cruel piece of legislation, and why at this time?

I have seen first hand how kids who are struggling with their gender identity can either be supported and accepted in their school community or further alienated and excluded. The former is a beautiful thing to see - a happy young person growing up to be confident in who they are, the latter is devastating - for the individual and all those who care about them.

Please do not let this destructive bill move forward.

Thank you,

Cari Zawodny

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: PearsPlants [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 2:50 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Sb140

To whom it may concern,

I oppose Sb140! A disgusting discriminatory bill that puts children at risk. Trans children deserve to be safe and free.

Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Betsy Sturm [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 4:52 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Kill SB 140

To the Senate Education Committee:

I am contacting you to speak against SB 140, the "transgender athlete discrimination bill". All students should be encouraged to participate in sports. It's healthy and life-affirming. If transgender students are prohibited from participating in the sports teams that correspond with their gender identity, they will predictably drop out. Transgender youth already have a high rate of suicide and other mental health issues. This bill will isolate them and encourage bullying by their peers. Why are we making it harder for them? I implore you to kill SB 140.

Sincerely,

Betsy Sturm

[REDACTED]

From: Doug Blanc [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 7:37 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Re: I oppose SB140

On Thu, Mar 3, 2022 at 7:31 PM Doug Blanc [REDACTED] wrote:

My name is Doug Blanc. I am a resident of Juneau Alaska. I have over 25 years experience working with students and young adults in educational and vocational settings. I'm writing to express my opposition to SB140.

I believe that every student has the right to take part in school activities in a manner consistent with their gender identity. Providing equal opportunities to all students is a core value of education.

I oppose the bill for the following reasons:

SB140 discriminates against transgender students and is unconstitutional

In a June 2021 memo, the U.S. Department of Education said schools violate the prohibitions against sex discrimination in Title IX when they discriminate against students based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. The Supreme Court's 2020 decision in *Bostock v. Clayton Clayton Co Georgia*, held that a prohibition of sex discrimination in Title VII, the federal employment law, prohibits unequal treatment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. The Education Department argued That interpretation extends to Title IX's protections, the Education Department argued.

SB140 puts transgender students at risk

This bill is an example of lawmaker(s) showing prejudices and ignorance toward the LGBTQ+ community by excluding certain transgender students from certain school activities unless they can prove their gender identity is "biological". So the very lawmaker(s) who are charged with protecting citizen's rights are saying "you can only identify as female if you were born female"? This puts a spotlight on our transgender students by excluding them from another public space in a very negative way.

According to the Trevor Project's National Survey on LGBTQ+ mental health, more than half of transgender and non-binary youth have seriously considered suicide, with over 40% of respondents reported being physically harmed or threatened because of their orientation.

The survey found that 61% of transgender youth said they were discriminated at schools more than anywhere else. But the survey also found that respecting and affirming the identity of trans students was "consistently associated with lower rates of suicide attempts," as transgender youth who said their pronouns and identity were respected by most or all of the people in their life had their suicide rates cut in half.

SB140 denies a transgender student identity.

By requiring "biological" proof of sex this bill allows a school to deny a transgender student's right to a gender identity. Girls who are transgender are told repeatedly that they are not "real" girls and boys who are transgender are told they are not "real" boys. Non-binary people are told that their gender is not real and that they must be either boys or girls. None of these statements are true. SB140 amplifies this dangerous untruth by requiring "biological" proof to be identified as female.

In addition. I hope we can move on from this legislative distraction and get to work crafting bills that will really help our students and teachers as our education system faces some pretty big problems right now.

Again, I oppose this bill.

Thank you

Doug Blanc

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Doug Blanc

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Doug Blanc

From: Alyssa Quintyne [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 10:51 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: A Response to the Testimonies given for SB 140

Good evening again, Senate Education Committee,
For the record - this is Alyssa Quintyne, organizer and creative from Fairbanks, AK.

I listened in on this morning's meeting and found myself confused - I, just 2 weeks ago, admittedly gave somber and deeply personal testimony on how hair discrimination impacts me and other Black Alaskans. And now I hear the same committee that showed they understood and that they don't condone discrimination, hearing a bill that discriminates against Trans students. So you all are perfectly fine with a Black trans student wearing their box braids, but not if they join a sport team you don't think they should? How is this any different from the bathroom bills that have been struck down and Title IX prohibits? How is the Alaska State Legislature an authority on what sex, gender, endocrinology, or sports medicine and research is, for a child, teen, and young adult?

Whether intentionally or not, respectfully Senator Hughes - just because you say that you are not transphobic and that you value them does not negate that you hold transphobic views and clear misunderstandings of sex and gender, and of Trans people. I do not understand why there is a constant political debate of whom the government may choose to discriminate against. I do not understand how our elected leaders do not understand how exhausting and violent it is to have to advocate for yourself and your existence over and over again. This legislature, for 63... almost 64 years, 32 sessions, has failed every time to pass any adequate protections for its LGBTQ constituents. And yet, you concern yourselves over a cruel and needless vendetta against children...playing on a sports team with other children they see as peers... because some parents/teachers/coaches/athletes feel **uncomfortable**? I meant exactly what I say and wrote to this committee - No one has the authority to determine how I am allowed to exist. Your core duty, as elected leaders and as part of the highest governing body in the State is to protecting your constituents rights to exist, as they exist. You as elected leaders to do not determine how or what happens to me because of my existence - that is oppression.

I want to thank Senator Begich for bringing up exactly what I was going to bring up in this email - the statistical data and legal examples presented are outdated and conflates muscle mass and bone density with athletic performance. The majority of the experts and invited testimony today aren't in Alaska (I will leave some doubt that they may be snow birding, or travelling) who focuses on the conflicts within Olympic sports - when this is a bill about K-12 sports and activities. None are endocrinologists or sports medicine professionals, but in fact lobbyists with major Anti-Trans organizations who not qualified to speak on Title IX, public education, or medical science. Title IX already protects Trans and Intersex students to play on the teams that they see fit. Medical experts already recognizes that the term 'biological sex' is outdated and unscientific, because human beings have 4 other sexual characteristics besides external genitalia, which I will explain later. The terms to use is Cisgender and Transgender. It's that simple.

In one concrete example, I was able to find the article and data presented at the meeting from the Sports Medicine Journal. Now please correct me if this is not the same study that was presented

- <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40279-020-01389-3#Abs1>

Senator Hughes mentioned that is a "peer reviewed study" - it's not. It's a **scientific review article**. It literally states that in the header. Scientific or systematic reviews are complications of research in a particular field/topic, while studies are when you conduct research on a population. The authors didn't conduct any research; they compiled a decade's worth of research on cisgender athletes and how their bodies work, compiled research on trans people and Hormone Treatment Therapy (HRT), sprinkled 2 articles about Black men and the affects of Prostate Cancer (yeah,

I'm not sure why either), smooshed that all together, and somehow concluded that Trans women, and only Trans women, have an unfair advantage over Cis women in sports.

In the references they cited, I couldn't find one study that focused on trans athletes; just cis athletes. There was only one figure shown that focused on youth athletes; all the other data shown was for adults. It's also important to note that both authors have been under backlash under conflict of interest for their ties with Anti-Trans organizations in Britain and Australia, these mentioned discrepancies and numerous conflation that Dr. Lundberg was actually fired for back in 1999 for his unethical and insufficient use of data in his publications: [The Firing of Dr. Lundberg \(1999\) AMA](#), along with the use of 'biological sex, biological males/females' when those terms are unscientific. This video 'Trans Women in Sport: A Response to Hilton & Lundberg' breaks this down reference by reference and explains the problem in how the authors use their sources (especially when they contradict themselves): [Trans Women in Sport: A Response to Hilton & Lundberg](#), sources cited here: [X](#). I implore this committee to watch it - it is a wonderful, straight forward resource that explores these really complex biomechanisms that is hormonal patterns.

When asked to issue a correction, the authors doubled down, stating "EH and TL have given talks and engaged in the mainstream media and academic press regarding the biology of sex and how they have concluded that this should impact sporting categories. All dissemination or engagement, irrespective of the medium, has been guided by their education, disciplinary training, and research findings. The authors assert that this does not constitute a conflict of interest. Rather, it is an essential part of their academic freedom and their obligation to engage, publicly, in such discussions." - long way of saying 'I've talked a lot of this on tv and so of course I don't have a conflict of interest.' Right.

The argument around muscle mass and bone density - that being the sole reason why Trans women in general have an unfair advantage over Cis women athletes, and why sports are separated by sex is factually incorrect. If sports were really separated by sex because, as you heard "men are bigger, stronger, and faster", then all sports would be also separated by weight and height. They aren't. Sport are really separated by sex because men are **typically pound for pound, stronger** than women. That is not the same thing as being strong generally, because endurance, stamina, flexibility, force, and impact all measure one's strength. In fact, women have much more endurance, flexibility and stamina than men - so then what should the argument be then? Men shouldn't do gymnastics or dance? Muscle density, endurance, **height**, blood volume and oxidation, and **fat free mass**, are all components that provide an advantage in athleticism - all of which are controlled by your hormones. Meaning, that if you undergo HRT (birth control, progesterone treatments used during postpartum care and menopause, testosterone supplements for infertility and erectile dysfunction, testosterone suppressants, etc.), all of those components can, and do change. We usually hear a something like 'women have high estrogen and men have high testosterone'. This is incorrect. Every single human being has these hormones, and, everyone falls within their own natural ranges and cycles that is dictated by age, genetics and family history, environment, etc. You could make the same argument that tall cis women have a unfair advantage over short cis women, or that Black women have an unfair advantage over White men because we (Black women) have higher bone strength than White men ([Racial Differences in Bone Strength - NCBI](#)). So what then? Ban tall women and Black women from playing on the women's teams too?

In addition, this review and testifiers negate to classify what an advantage is. An advantage in one sport is a disadvantage in another. For example - having a higher fat-to-body mass can be advantageous in endurance sports like long-distance swimming, but dis-advantageous in impact sports like American football. When it was found that Michael Phelps, and White cisgender man, have more lactic acid in his body - something extremely advantageous in swimming - he wasn't barred or made into his own category. He was celebrated ([Why Michael Phelps Has the Perfect Body for Swimming](#)). But let Caster Semenya, a Black cisgender woman, have more testosterone in her body - something not correlatedly advantageous to running, and she is sexualized, barred from competing, and asked to take testosterone suppressants ([The Clock Ticks on Caster Semenya's Olympic Career](#)).

For context for the committee - besides being an organizer and creative, I am a researcher. I earned my degree in Political Science with a concentration in Political Theory and Constitutional Law, I studied the Alaska State Statute

for 7 years, and I've spent almost 10 years doing extensive research on civil governance and discrimination on local to international levels. A very long way of saying bills like 174 (which yes does affect me personally which is why I chose to omit this information and focus more on my experience) and bills like this are directly in my scope of study and work. To give this committee even more context - I am a cisgender (assigned female at birth and identifies as a woman) woman with PCOS - Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome. This is a genetic condition that affects the ovaries, and causes an imbalance in the hormones the ovaries produce - testosterone, estrogen, and progesterone. I have breasts and a lovely uterus that tries to kill me, I grow facial hair, I have chronic pain, and I naturally produce more testosterone than most of the men on this committee, guaranteed. From 4-6, and then 8-13, I was in gymnastics. I started showing symptoms of PCOS at age 8, but we didn't know that's what was going on, and it didn't seem to affect my performance at class. From what I remembered and loved about my body - though I was absolutely terrible at pull ups, push ups, and flips - I was flexible, I had a lot of endurance, and I was **strong**. I was known as the Balance Beam Queen - I had the stature and balance to shine through our exercises (except when it came to flips). I could pick up and hold my teacher - a grown 5'4 cis woman, at age 11. Now, was this due to my increasing testosterone levels I didn't know I had? Or was it because of my years of training and endurance? The world may never know. They never tested my blood or testosterone levels, they never asked if I was trans or if I had a condition. They just assumed I was a strong, chubby kid. And that's my point. Because I appeared externally to fit their definition of what a girl looks like, and not what's running in my blood, not how I'm developing, they never questioned my presence on the team or in class.

When you start to police those ranges outside of a medical context, when legislators are not endocrinologists that can explain or understand the deep and convoluted complexities of hormone ranges and patterns, you hurt the very women you are claiming to protect. Cis women, cis intersex women, women with genetic conditions, women of color, disabled women, and Queer women. We should not be forced - **especially as children going thru or already in puberty** - to take any suppressants or medication that is not of medical necessity, simply to play on a team and make the adults in our lives comfortable. **That can damage or kill us.** None of us can control how our bodies function; all we can do is manage it. We all have different individual advantages and dis-advantages that we learn to navigate, and make into a niche for our teams. That's what you learn in sports; it doesn't matter what your body is, it matters what you can do with your body. That's what makes you a good athlete and a good team player. It sounds like the testifiers never learned that lesson.

I want to address some of the myths that the testifiers used, as I am exhausted of debunking them time and time again.

First, the third testifier Taylor, kept using 'genetic advantages' in reference to the 'biological advantages' Trans women apparently have. Genetic refers to your chromosomes, secondary sexual characteristics, and potentially hormones as well. That has nothing to do with your performance in sports. Note, there are 3 chromosomes (X, Y, and O), and over 22 chromosomal variations, or autosomes found in humans that are naturally occurring. So the binary argument of genetics just doesn't align with the actual biology of human beings. Furthermore, the reason the binary definitions of sex are no longer upheld in the fields of Biology or Medicine is that it erases the other 4 human sexual characteristics that define sex in the human body. Those are external genitalia, internal genitalia, hormonal patterns, chromosomes, and secondary sexual characteristics ([Sexing the Body - Dr. Anne Fausto-Sterling](#)).

Second, the story of Juniper Eastwood. The 'truthism' Representative Barbara Ehardt neglected to tell you is that 2 years before being the first trans athlete to compete in a NCAA Division, she followed with the NCAA policy requiring trans women to take testosterone-reduction medication for a year to reduce muscle mass. Her testosterone levels, muscle mass, and interestingly enough, BMI were of range and similar to that of a cis woman's. Hmnnnnnn, the power of HRT I guess. ([While fighting HB 112, transgender former UM runner Juniper Eastwood finds clarity on trails](#))

In short Senators, this bill is riddled with discrepancies, myths, and constitutional flags that this legislature has no business in interacting with. The fact that it would not require all students to test their testosterone levels, and not just Trans students, proves the double standard. The fact that intersex and gender non conforming students are not included in this bill or in the data included proves the lack of understanding of both Trans and Cis students, and their identities. The fact that Trans men are not under the same scrutiny under this bill proves the outdated, disrespectful, and misogynistic views against women. And the fact that neither Senator Hughes, her staffer, nor any of the invited testimony had any evidence on trans and cis youth athletes proves that this is not an issue concerning girls', or any students' safety or mental health - this is a politicized transphobia and the unwillingness for our elected leaders to educate themselves on the daily lives of their own constituents.

What this bill does do is let Trans Alaskans know that they are not welcomed here. Our State and Legislature has proven this well already. You can get fired, evicted, denied voting access, public transportation, crises and emergency services, food services, public services for being LGBTQ in Alaska. Only 4 cities in the state protect your employment and housing from anti-LGBTQ discrimination, with some stipulations. Anywhere else, you're on your own. You can use Fairbanks as an example - I know 5 Queer students buried at Birch Hill cemetery who had enough. They had enough of being used as a litmus test their school districts and governments to see who is worthy of rights. They had enough of the harassment, the sexualization, the dead naming and misgendering, they had enough of living under the threat of violence everyday. Trans youth and their families listen to these meetings Senators. They see your facebook posts, the event you attend and don't attend, they know where you stand on their existence. Your words and your legislation has serious consequences; ones you cannot amend away.

As Senator Begich will probably share with this committee - in 2019, around 60% of Trans and Nonbinary youth engaged in self harm, and around 50% of Trans and Nonbinary youth contemplated suicide, nationwide ([Gender Minority Mental Health in the U.S.](#)). As this 'narrative' about regulating who should compete on which sports teams, and what an athlete's hormone levels should be to be fair to others, numerous states have proposed, some passed, legislation that prevents Trans and Nonbinary children and teens from accessing the gender affirming medical care they need. So while Senator Hughes may claim that the intent of this bill is to protect girl's safety and mental health because of Trans girls and women participating with them, which I have failed to find any statistics, data, or studies proving this to be an issue, **who's safety and wellbeing does this bill protect, and at who's expense?**

Banning trans children and teen from playing on the teams they see fit does nothing to protect them from harm. It does nothing to protect those then adults from harm. It does nothing to dismantle the oppressive systems that impact us everyday.

You want to protect women and girl athletes? Then address the incestuous dynamic men coaches have with their teams, beautifully illustrated by one of your invited testifiers with their 'child bearing hips' example. Address the gap in funding within the State to hire Title IX experts in local districts. Address the lacking definition of sexual assault and violence in the State's statutes, so when athletes report sexual assault, their cases are not dismissed. When/if it comes to the Senate floor, vote to pass the current HB 17 so that when Queer women coaches are fired from their role, they at least have recourse. Pass HB 58 too! So when athletes have to travel, they don't have to worry about accessing their medication! < That, actually impacts and helps athletes.

Leave Trans kids alone.

Exhaustedly,

~ Alyssa

[REDACTED]

From: Mary Kehrhahn-Stark [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 8:48 PM
To: Sen. Shelley Hughes
Subject: SB140

March 3, 2022
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Senator Hughes,

I am writing to you about SB140. I am strongly opposed to this bill since it is crafted with the intention to specifically exclude transgender youth from sports and their school community.

Most importantly, SB140 violates a student's privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

By being set apart from the other students, this bill encourages bullying, since it stigmatizes the person, and it also encourages the person to be ostracized, since it isolates the individual from the general school community.

I oppose SB140. Please think of the young person you are isolating from his/her peers. The loneliness, the depression, the isolation you are helping create by passing this Bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mary E. Kehrhahn-Stark
Goldstream Valley
Fairbanks, Alaska
HB4

[REDACTED]

From: Melody Bechberger [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 11:20 PM
To: Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Tom Begich
Cc: Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Peter Micciche
Subject: Oppose SB 140 - Senate Education Committee

I was unable to testify today publicly as I was at work, so thank you for taking the time to read my correspondence. My name is Melody Bechberger and I am an Anchorage resident, I identify as straight, but I volunteer with LGBTQ+ organizations so I have some insight into the impacts bills like this cause on transgender youth.

Title IX protects transfeminine people from discrimination in participating in things like sports. This nondiscrimination promotes equal opportunities and promotes well being. When transgender people are confronted with bills of this nature, about their fundamental rights, it increases feelings of isolation, depression, increases incidents of bullying and incidents of violence against them. This leads to an increase of suicidality in our transgender youth.

Queer athletes used to be shunned from playing sports, professional athletes today still face discrimination and many do not come out publicly. Affirming and including transgender youth in sports promotes teamwork, leadership opportunities, and many valuable life lessons that their peers experience. Trans people have been participating in sports for years (too many had to keep it secret for fear of discrimination) at all age levels. Allowing trans athletes to compete doesn't let boys/men to -pretend- to be transgender just to compete, but to self-affirm who they are.

There are also serious concerns about the wording and 'practical' implementation of SB140. It would raise serious privacy concerns because coaches would have to make a determination about a student's "biological sex" that may result in invasive physical exams. This is no different from bathroom and locker bills all over the nation which have shown to be discriminatory, harmful, and illegal.

Please don't let discrimination of this nature occur in our great state. Let's work together to make sure all our youth athletes can participate in sports to build resiliency, leadership, fitness, and have some fun while doing it. Thank you for your time.

-Melody Bechberger
[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99502

Cherie Bowman

Fairbanks, AK 99709

Senator Roger Holland, Chair
Senator Gary Stevens, Vice Chair
Senator Tom Begich, Member
Senator Shelley Hughes, Member
Senator Peter Micciche, Member
Alaska State Senate Education Committee
1292 Sadler Way, Ste. 308
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-465-3466

Senator.Roger.Holland@akleg.gov

Senator.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov

Senator.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov

Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov

Senator.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov

March 3, 2022

Dear Senate Education Committee,

I am writing to you and urging that you oppose Senate Bill 140 which would force school children to designate their sex as the sex assigned at birth for school-sponsored sports. It is very troubling to me that people continue to deny that there are people who do not fit into the binary molds enforced by our patriarchal system. Science and numerous studies show that are a number of reasons why someone chooses to identify as transgender. They understand their bodies best. If a child were born with both female and male genitals, do you think a parent should force them to choose one sex or the other? More often than not, many people with that issue have often transitioned once reaching adulthood. No one should force them to be something they are not. Forcing them to fit within these binary molds is discriminatory. Forcing them to choose identify as a certain sex is discriminatory.

The issue of sex is not as cut and dried as some people would have you believe. Forcing a child to participate in a sport as a certain sex is discriminatory and violates their privacy rights. Our public schools are supposed to be inclusive. They should not be dictated by religious beliefs. If people choose to raise their children according to religious beliefs, there are private schools available. But public schools are meant to be a safe place for EVERYONE, transgendered children included. They should not have to worry about being bullied or harassed for using a bathroom with which they do not identify with or being forced to identify as a certain sex in order to participate in sports. Have we not learned anything as humans when we continue to ignore the science and the research we have before us? Being transgendered is not a crime and does not violate human nature; it IS human nature.

I have attached the International Olympic Committee's transgender policy from November 2015 which supports the inclusion of transgendered athletes and notes that they have no advantage over biologically male and female athletes.

Do the right thing and vote against Senate Bill 140. I thank you all for your time.

Sincerely,

Cherie Bowman

Cherie Bowman

[REDACTED]

From: Julia Terry [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2022 11:02 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Oppose SB 140

Thank you for your service and for taking the time to hear our thoughts. My name is Julia Terry (they/them/je). I am a current resident of Anchorage, Zip 99508. I am also a life long Alaskan raised on Yupik and Lower Tanana Dene lands. I am providing testimony as a former student athlete, the parent of a current student athlete, and a social worker who works with vulnerable young people.

I am writing you today to urge you to put an end to any consideration of SB 140, which is a blatant attempt to isolate transgender young people from their peers.

I am sure by now that you have heard of the extremely high rates of suicidality experienced by transgender young people who are not being affirmed and supported in community. In order to mitigate the amplified bullying and violence directed toward transpeople and the increase in feelings of isolation and depression that follow public debates about their humanity, I have been spending a lot of time thinking about how to demonstrate to the young transpeople I know that their lives have value.

I can start by utilizing qualities I first developed as a student athlete - confidence, leadership, respect, patience, and possibly most importantly, resilience. I have used these tools my entire life - they helped me navigate higher education, prepare for moves, experience loss, and every day they help me as a parent and as a mentor and support person to young people. They led me to my career, where I get to celebrate and support trans and gender expansive young people every day.

Because I was afforded the opportunity to participate in sports, I developed internal resources that have saved my life - which means that now, as an out nonbinary femme person, I can model to trans young people that we have the possibility to thrive, against all odds.

Another thing I can do is support my child, a cisgender young person with friends who he enjoys playing soccer, basketball, and football alongside without regard to their gender, in perpetuating a sense of joy, belonging and connection to community by inviting people of all genders to play together. This value, of being better together and showing up for one another, is the fabric of life in Alaska. It's the thing that makes people stop to help you on the side of the road, shovel off your roof, and enjoy cheering at a basketball game, then sitting at the same table afterward to eat feasts made from the bounty of this land.

When we foster a sense of belonging, place, and purpose in one another, we have healthier communities.

You have a chance to demonstrate care to all young Alaskans and young trans people throughout the state (many of whom are finding ways to survive in silence right now) that their lives have value, and that they are welcome here, by quashing SB140.

Please focus on the wellbeing of our young people, protect student athletes, and take action against this proposal.

Thank you,

Julia Terry

--

(queer femme; pronouns: they/themme)



From: Ian van Tets
Sent: Friday, March 4, 2022 12:24 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Opposition to SB 140

Dear Senators,

I am writing to express my opposition to SB 140 as it is currently written for a variety of reasons. In particular:

1) The "catch all" nature of the bill.

I am unaware of any problems associated with trans men (people who have transitioned from female to male) competing in men's sports. No one has suggested that trans men enjoy any sort of unfair athletic advantage over other male athletes and no one has suggested that their participation in male sports poses any sort of safety risk to the other competitors.

Banning trans men from competing against male athletes harms the banned athletes but does nothing for anyone else. It serves no useful purpose whatsoever.

I would like to think that students who are, or who are in the process of, transitioning from female to male have simply been swept up in the general language of the bill and I urge the committee to amend this bill in such a way that it no longer harms a group of people who they have, I assume, no interest in harming.

2) The use of the undefined term "biological sex" to classify people into sporting groups.

Biological sex is surprisingly complicated (even before we begin to consider gender identity) and it simply cannot be used to divide everyone nicely into two groups.

The biological gender of a surprising number of Alaskans (somewhere between 1 and 2% of the population) can best be described as complicated - their chromosomes, their genitalia, and their reproductive organs do not nicely fall into a single category of "male" or "female".

Is a person who has two X chromosomes female? Does the answer change if the person was born with male genitalia or with genitalia that look male? Does the answer change if the person has internal reproductive organs - ovaries or internal testes - that are inconsistent with either their chromosomes or their external genitalia?

Similarly is a person with an X and a Y chromosome male? Does that answer change if they were born with female genitalia or with genitalia that look female? Does the answer change if the person has internal reproductive organs - ovaries or internal testes - that are inconsistent with either their chromosomes or their external genitalia?

Who gets to decide the answers to these questions?

Imagine the case of a girl who was raised as a girl - not for any radical sociological reasons but simply because she was born with female genitalia and everyone simply assumed she was female from birth - but who, while at high school, undergoes genetic testing and discovers that she is XY. Is this girl still female or does she have to change her gender to satisfy some school or sporting administrator? Do we really want to introduce outsiders into such a deeply personal situation?


I urge the committee to think carefully about the wording of the bill before allowing it to progress any further so that they can prevent or minimize the unintentional harm that it would otherwise cause.

I also urge the committee to think carefully about those who will be harmed by this bill - both those that they intend to harm and those that they have simply failed to consider - and to seriously consider withdrawing this bill altogether.

The bill affects some of the most marginalized teenagers in our school system - those whose biological gender is unusual for one reason or another and those who have for whatever reason chosen to transition from male to female or from female to male.

Do we really need to step in and create laws that complicate these students lives further simply to preclude the possibility that in the future 1 or 2 people from one of these groups may do unusually well in their chosen sport while they are at high school?

Yours sincerely,
Dr. Ian van Tets


Anchorage, AK 99517

[REDACTED]

From: Sarah Wright [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 4, 2022 2:20 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Fwd: SB 140 opposition

Hello,

I am a future educator, currently enrolled in the Elementary Education program at UAF. I'm also a life long Alaskan and parent to four young children, three are enrolled in public school I'm the Fairbanks North Star Borough. I am writing in opposition to SB 140. This bill is harmful and discriminatory. It codifies transphobia. I am especially appalled at the language of this bill requiring "biological" sex to be verified. This is a violation of student privacy. This bill is grotesque, and I'm ashamed to see it being considered.

Sincerely,
Sarah Wright
Fairbanks, Alaska

[REDACTED]

From: Kristine Schmidt [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 4, 2022 2:43 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

Dear Senators on the Education Committee:

It is disappointing and frustrating that the Alaska Senate must waste time dealing with SB 140, which is a solution in search of a problem in my view. There are so many important fiscal, operational and social problems the Legislature should be dealing with that are vastly more important than this perceived problem, which is not backed up by any actual evidence.

The bill also has the potential to be harmful in many ways; most particularly in allowing more frivolous lawsuits such as proposed by the bill's AS 14.18.170. Whatever happened to tort reform?

SB 140 also is overbroad, in covering literally all school-sponsored sports. Are we really going to make little elementary school girls prove their gender to play a game of softball or to participate in a track race? Even for P.E.? According to this bill, yes.

By the way, according to scientists, there is no difference in athletic performance between boys and girls before puberty. So SB 140 applying to all ages is overkill.

Also, who is going to determine that an athlete is "female"? Are we seriously going to have only girls and young women subjected to a humiliating physical exam in order to prove their gender, in order to participate in any school sport deemed "female"? This is absurd overkill.

The Alaska Legislature must stop trying to micromanage public education and let Alaska school districts handle issues of fairness in sports **competition**. Because otherwise, who cares? There is an Alaska School Activities Association: if transgender women participation in school competitive sports is a problem, which to my knowledge there is no evidence of to date, then that organization is best equipped to handle it.

Please vote "no" on forwarding SB 140 to the full Senate. Thank you for considering my comments.

Kristine Schmidt
513 Ash Avenue
Kenai, Alaska 99611
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Michelle Gavel [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 4, 2022 3:06 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Opposition to SB140

Hello,

My name is Michelle Gavel, and I live in Fairbanks zip 99709. I am writing to OPPOSE SB 140, which follows a disturbing wave of discriminatory legislation that is affecting LGBTQ youth, and specifically transgender youth across the country. I am concerned that SB140 will harm Alaskan young people by delineating sport participation by "biological sex" rather than affirmed gender, a concept with widespread acceptance by medical and psychological professionals. It is unclear how this delineation would be verified based on the vague writing of this legislation, which leaves student athletes vulnerable to medical privacy rights violations. Do not allow this bill to progress any further than it has, and instead focus on legislation and policy that could actually help the youth of Alaska to have happy, healthy, active lives.

Thank you for your service to the state of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Michelle Gavel

[REDACTED]

From: Sarah Hayes [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 5, 2022 10:28 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: NO on SB 140

Dear Senate Education Committee,

Please do not continue the efforts put forth in SB 140 to discriminate against trans kids. This is a tool to further dehumanize members of our community that need more support, not more harassment. This is an unnecessary step that will cause more harm than good. I'd like to ask, why is this bill being created in the first place? Who is currently being harmed that this bill alleviates?

Thank you for your time and consideration. Now is a time to respect everyone's humanity, not to create more barriers and boxes to separate us.

Sincerely,
Sarah Hayes
Healy, AK 99743

[REDACTED]

From: Shirley Dean [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 5, 2022 12:54 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB140

I would like to go on record as opposed to SB140. I tried to testify during the hearing but did not see that you held the hearing scheduled for Marh 3. So please accept this as opposing this bill.

This bill as written will have a negative impact on students and society as a whole. It is inhumane and will subject many more students to bullying and stigmatization and lead to mental health and death by suicide of our youth! This bill not only denies students the right to participate in sports as their true selves but violates their right to privacy. How will the coaches and teachers determine who can participate? It will be based on stereotypes and fears or illegal body searches.

This bill is discriminatory and does nothing to equalize the playing of sports. We should be looking at equal funding and opportunity for students of all colors and stripes not banning students because of fear. Please vote NO on this bigoted and backward bill. I find no redeeming clause or words on this needless hateful bill.

Thank you for the work you do to support all of Alaskans!

Shirley Dean
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

907-364-3581

[REDACTED]

From: Jamie White [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 6:55 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: No to SB 140

Hello,
Please vote no on SB 140. This bill will lead to the stigmatization and isolation of trans students, undermining their health, safety and social and emotional development.

Thanks,
Jamie White
Anchorage, AK

From: Emma Zink Hatcher [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2022 6:56 AM
To: Sen. Shelley Hughes
Cc: Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Jesse Kiehl
Subject: Trans girls in school sports

Dear Senator Hughes,

I am writing in reference to your proposition that we bar trans girls from girls sport in schools in Alaska. As an Alaskan, I am also a woman, mountain runner, former high school soccer player, cyclist, and I continue to be shocked by the political tendency lately to claim that young trans girls pose any risk whatsoever to young cis girls in sports. It's as if there's this sudden switch in our beliefs that every boy athletically is stronger, faster, and more skilled than every girl, and that this flawed belief is the only thing that matters in assessments of fairness in sport. The reality is far more nuanced and athletic performance between sexes far more complex.

Inclusion is the default in a democratic society. The bar of evidence needs to stay high, and we just don't have the dearth of real-world data needed to back your proposed policy up. We need not just one or two stories, but a stack of real-world evidence that wherever trans girls are participating, scholarships cis girls are being consistently lost by a long shot. You need stacks of evidence that cis-women are being consistently barred by a long shot from podiums where trans women participate, that cis women are hindered in team sports to an obvious and laughable degree where trans women are present. We would need excessive real-world evidence that the advantage is significant and consistent. We simply don't have that.

Frankly, trans women have been participating in sport at the highest levels for decades. Sure, we have seen the occasional sore loser, who gets fairly beaten by a trans woman, and claims she was unfairly disadvantaged. We don't need to give voice to those sore losers at a policy level.

Because I know you folks tend to like anecdotes, I'll share a couple. When my husband was an elite, semi-pro cyclist, racing at the category 2 level in Denver, CO, a young, cis-woman racer name Mel decided to just show up at the men's criterium race one month in 2016, hours after obtaining podium finishes in the women's races. She was a collegiate cyclist, and made waves by consistently placing 4th or 5th place out of 30-40 elite men. While most people commended her performances and were excited to see this renegade show of girl-power, any of the men were livid, feeling like their manhood had been challenged, and she was asked to stop by some.

Take any race at any level and if you examine finishing times, while boys may eek out at the very top for times on average when it's a show of individual endurance, there is significant overlap in ability across the field. Every race I have run or biked from high school to adulthood, male finishers have crossed the line first, it's not long after those first males cross the line that you see the first female show up.

Speaking from personal experience as a amateur/not-even-that-fast woman athlete, I have beat many, even majority of the men in my races, with performances in the Juneau Ridge Race (I was 12th out of 65 overall in 2019/2nd place for women), the Mount Roberts Tram Run (10th out of 48 overall in 2019/3rd place for women), and the Colfax Half Marathon in Denver (287th out of 4,662 in 2017/25th for women in my age group). I will note that the Mount Roberts Tram Run of 2019 had an incredible high schooler, Sadie Tuckwood, finish in 5th place overall, showing up to the line just after four incredibly fast men, one of whom is a professional runner. If any of those men who crossed the line after me and other women were to transition, especially if any of them underwent hormone replacement therapy, the women who already are faster than them would only put more minutes in lead on them.

And more importantly, if one of the top male finishers were to take the brave step to come out as trans and begin her transition, I would be excited to see her on the women's podium, continuing to athletically shine in a world where in every other area of life, her humanity and identity will be questioned by every day people and debated in courts of law. Further, any physical advantages simply doesn't even begin to matter in team sports like soccer and others where team strategy is as or more important than any one players speed or strength.

Shame on all who desire to strip away the joys and community of sport from women who are trans. I urge you to drop this outrageous attack that does nothing but give voice to sore losers who would do better to use their losses work harder and strive to raise their personal bar rather than lash out in transphobic tantrums.

Kind regards,
Emma Zink Hatcher

Juneau, AK


From: Laura Melchor [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 9:17 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: I OPPOSE SB 140

Dear legislators,

In case you didn't know, the world is moving toward becoming a place of acceptance and inclusivity toward all people, not backward into the oppressive swamp of history. It won't be long before mixed sports are more and more common and the lines between genders are blurred. When states like TX create backwards-ass bills that harm others, the world rightly ridicules them. Why allow Alaska to join this list?

In short: SB 140 is a senseless, misguided, and hateful bill. If passed, it will cause irreparable harm to Alaska's transgender children. These children may already be struggling with bullying from their peers, especially in a state like ours, where there are an unnerving amount of people who wish to go back to the good old days when things were actually quite shitty. Please, let's not heap hate from the State of Alaska itself onto these kids. Just HOW exactly would someone "check" these children to "make sure" they are complying with this bullshit law? The only answer I can think of makes me shudder, as it is, unquestionably, sexual abuse.

Transgender children are already at [a higher risk of dying by suicide](#) than other youth groups. If you pass this bill, more Alaska children will be ostracized at school, a key indicator for suicide risk. If you pass this bill, the fault for transgender child deaths by suicide will lie squarely in the hands of the State of Alaska.

Kill this ridiculous, abusive bill. And #protecttranskids.

Sincerely,

Laura Ojeda Melchor
Author of MISSING OKALEE (Shadow Mountain)
MFA in Writing, Vermont College of Fine Arts



[REDACTED]

From: Chelsea Fields [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 9:22 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Letter of opposition - SB 140

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my opposition for Senate Bill 140. This bill is hateful, misguided, and senseless in its attempt to discriminate against trans Alaskans, particularly trans femmes, in sports. The facts are that, (1) trans athletes in sports is good for everyone, (2) trans athletes do not have an unfair advantage, (3) trans girls are girls, and (4) trans people belong on the same team as their peers.

The main goal in excluding trans athletes is often an attempt to protect cisgender females, when in reality doing so only encourages gender policing and the potential of subjecting any woman to invasive tests or accusations. And furthermore, the myth that cis women need this type of "protection" reinforces harmful stereotypes of trans individuals.

In regard to any sort of unfair advantage, Dr. Joshua Safer of Mt. Sinai Center for Transgender Medicine + Surgery states that "[A] person's genetic make-up and internal and external reproductive anatomy are not useful indicators of athletic performance,...there is no inherent reason why her physiological characteristics related to athletic performance should be treated differently from the physiological characteristics of a non-transgender woman."

Trans people are exactly who they say they are, and expressing sentiments to the contrary is both misinformed and harmful. Women's bodies come in a range of physical characteristics - there is no one way for a woman to be.

Banning trans students from sports and the ability to play with their peers is disruptive and harmful, and can have detrimental effects to their emotional + physical well-being.

And finally, I would like to highlight that many Native Nations, many of whom were the original stewards of this land, hold deep regard and respect for Two-Spirit - those individuals who don't ascribe to the gender binary of Western society, instead taking on a third gender role.

I implore the Alaska Senate to re-evaluate the effects that this type of transphobic legislation could have on the students of our state, and the messages that this sends to the LGBTQIA+ community. And furthermore, in a state with an exceptionally high suicide rate an additional risk factor is the exact opposite of what we need.

With concern,
Chelsea Fields
On ancestral+stolen Dena'ina Elnena homeland | Wasilla, AK

[REDACTED]

From: Sheri Thomson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 5:18 AM
To: Sen. Shelley Hughes
Subject: Trans rights are human rights.

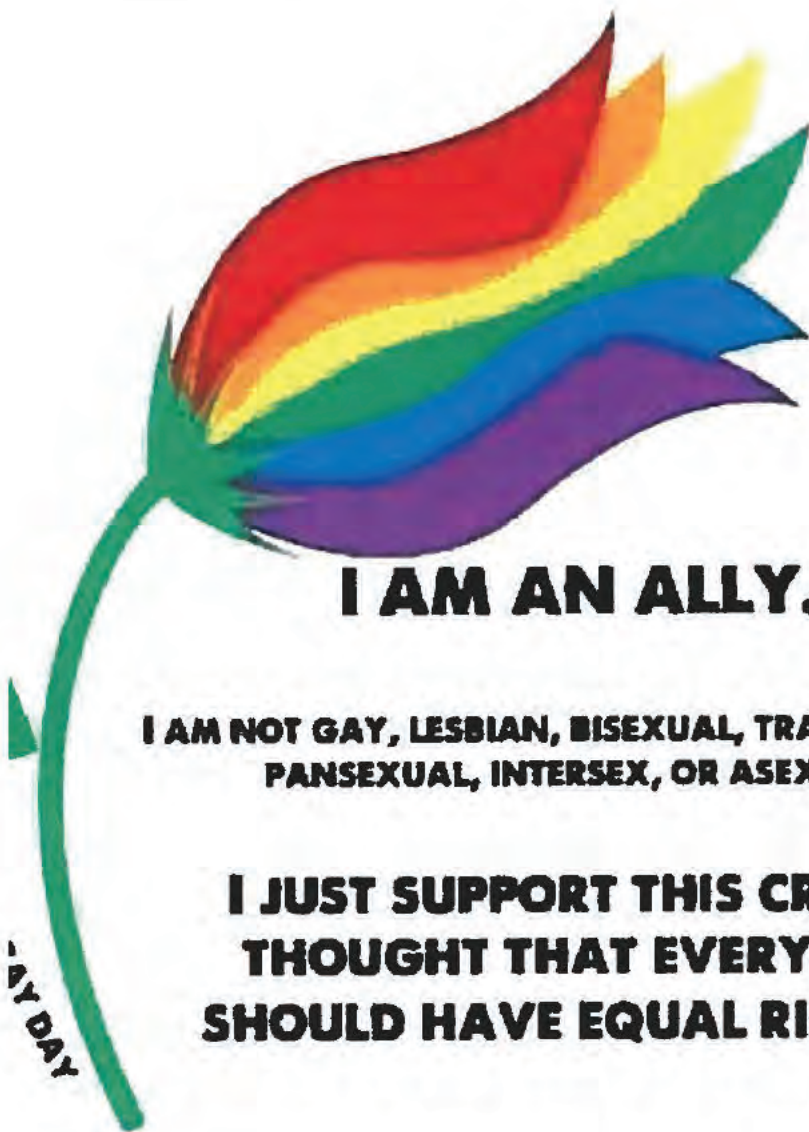
Your crusade is absolutely disgusting.
It is a vile display of taking away somebody's rights.
You should be ashamed of yourself.

**"Agree to disagree" is reserved for
things like "I don't like coffee."**

**NOT racism, homophobia, sexism.
Not basic common decency.
Not human rights.**

**Not the right to be treated equally
regardless of race, religion, color,
creed or sexual orientation.**

**We do not have a difference of opinion
We have a difference in morality.**



I AM AN ALLY.

**I AM NOT GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, TRANSGEND
PANSEXUAL, INTERSEX, OR ASEXUAL.**

**I JUST SUPPORT THIS CRAZY
THOUGHT THAT EVERYONE
SHOULD HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS.**

PROTECT TRANS KID
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Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Willy Keppel [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 11:21 AM
To: Sen. Shelley Hughes
Subject: Trans in girls sports, funding public radio.

[REDACTED]

Dear Senator Hughes,

Kindly enter my opposition to transgenders in girls/womens sports in Alaska education systems.

If you're born with a penis, you have no business in a girls rest room, locker room or in competition with females.

Kindly make that Alaskan Law.

As for State financing of Public Radio, I'm opposed.

Thanks,
Willy Keppel
Quinhagak, AK

[REDACTED]

From: Rachel I [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 12:11 PM
To: Sen. Shelley Hughes
Subject: SB 140

[REDACTED]

Hello Sen. Hughes,

I am a Juneau resident writing in opposition to SB 140. Regardless of your intentions with this bill, the ultimate result will be adding additional trauma and mental health burdens to some of Alaska's most vulnerable youth. I think we can both agree that this is not what anyone should be aiming for, whether directly or indirectly.

Trans AND Cisgender girls are strong, they are capable, and they are going to make Alaska proud and reach their goals. They are ALL girls. They should ALL play girls sports. Hindering one in the name of another is not the values we should be promoting. Separate but equal didn't work before, and it's not going to work now.

Thanks for your time,
Rachel Iafolla
Juneau, AK

[REDACTED]

From: Debbie Maas [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 2:12 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Comments on SB 140 for 3/12 committee meeting

Dear Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to consider my comments on Senate Bill 140. I am deeply saddened by the bill and by the ongoing misunderstanding and fear of transgender people. It is difficult for transgender children to navigate through this world where their sense of self is questioned, attacked, and misunderstood, often leading to mental health issues and suicide. To require students to play with the team according to their "biological sex" would cause additional mental and emotional stress and likely exclude transgender students from playing sports altogether. Gender identity is a critical element in how adolescents perceive themselves, and preventing students from being part of the team they identify with would be extremely harmful and would only increase divisiveness and discrimination in our schools.

All students have varying degrees of athleticism, and there is no evidence that transgender girls taking part in sports outperform cisgender girls or prevent anyone from winning scholarships or awards. Furthermore, there is no way to determine one's "biological sex" without a degree of invasiveness wholly inappropriate and humiliating to adolescents.

I urge you to halt this bill and support all of Alaska's student athletes.

Thank you for your time,
Debbie Maas

[REDACTED]
Juneau, Alaska 99801

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 3:28 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

Dear Members of the Senate Education Committee:

I'm writing in opposition to SB 140, "DESIGNATE SEX FOR SCHOOL-SPONSORED SPORTS."

I believe there currently exist a number of problems that the Senate Education Committee should be addressing: The fiscal future of education, dearth of teachers, disrupted learning due to Covid, failed education of those in foster care.... SB 140 doesn't address any of them, and in fact creates divisiveness where none exists.

Time tackling this non-issue is not time well spent. In fact, similar legislation in other states has been deemed unconstitutional. This leads me to believe, Sen. Hughes, that you have presented this bill to more publicly align yourself with those who discriminate against LGBTQ individuals of all ages, not to better serve the state and its wide and nuanced range of individuals.

For over 30 years I have attended a Christian church that opens its heart and doors to *all*. I have witnessed the pain of those who have come from other (Christian) churches where—because of their sexual orientation—they are reviled and taught they are sinners—not a stance my church takes. These include young people, those SB 140 may affect. If they should choose to be involved in a school sport, the process of identifying their gender by their biological build could only be counterproductive to their growth as productive, caring human beings.

I urge the committee to abandon this bill and focus its precious time and resources to already identified and significant problems of the state.

Thank you.

Constance Quinley
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99508

[REDACTED]

From: Suzy Coronel [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 9:40 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB140 - Educator and Healthcare Provider

To the Senate Education Committee,

I am a teacher, a healthcare provider and a longtime Fairbanks resident. I am writing today to oppose SB 140, a bill that targets children who are already at risk for bullying and physical harassment.

SB 140 and its companion in the House, HB 230, are discriminatory bills that would violate all students' basic privacy rights by requiring coaches and educators like myself to determine whether a student is trans or not, which is deeply unethical and inappropriate.

This bill would lead to the stigmatization and isolation of trans students, undermining their health, safety, and social and emotional development.

There is simply no reason to spend the Legislature's limited time & resources targeting vulnerable kids, and I urge the committee to set this bill aside and focus on other issues, like teacher retirements (the lack of in our state) teacher retention (we are seeing annual mass exoduses, largely due to retirements) and lack of tenure for Type M certifications (how can this be? these teachers are highly qualified, subject matter experts in their fields)?

Sincerely,
Suzy Coronel
Fairbanks, AK

[REDACTED]

From: James S. [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 4:50 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Against SB 140

Hello, I'm writing this as a transgender man who has lived in Kodiak for the majority of my life, has a family history here going back to the 40's, and who has been out as trans for over a decade. I myself first came out as a teenager.

I live my life every day as a man. Unless I tell anyone, no one thinks twice about my gender. No one questions me when I say who I am. I'm lucky enough to have had access to needed medical care and supportive community.

I have also been under intense scrutiny. Early in my transition I faced homelessness, frequent sexual harassment, sexual abuse, and constant questions and distrust about my very identity. Countless trans youths today face the same, and to hear that this kind of dehumanizing prodding and invasion of privacy would come from school staff is horrific. Children are supposed to feel safe, and BE safe in school and around adults. They are supposed to trust the people who are put in charge to keep them safe.

Inherent bigotry of this bill's very purpose aside, is no way to 'verify' a child's 'biological sex' that would not constitute sexual assault and abuse. Even if it were to take place in a medical setting, no one should have their identity, their sense of self, and their very personhood called into question by an invasive, inappropriate examination or by basing it on stereotypical traits ('broad shoulders, large heart, etc'. Are we going to use phrenology again now too or what?)

We are human beings, and this is unethical treatment that I would expect to be reserved for farm or lab animals. It's abhorrent.

I want to add that I work for the Kodiak Island Borough School District. There is absolutely no way that I would ever let my kids be subject to this kind of treatment. Not now, not ever.

[REDACTED]

From: Amanda Becker [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 4:57 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Testimony Against SB 140

Hello,

My name is Amanda Becker and I have been a resident of the State of Alaska for 7 years, currently residing in Kodiak. I am writing today to oppose SB 140.

For as much as I love this state, I hate how backwards we are when it comes to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

For a State that claims it wants to protect families and children, where is the protection for the queer kids and their families who deserve the exact same rights as their cis gender peers??

This bill may claim to be about protecting the rights of kids in sports but in reality, a report from the think tank Center for American Progress found that trans-inclusive sports policies don't actually harm cisgender children, as guidelines allowing all youth to compete in athletics actually increase participation among all groups. Banning trans youth from gender-affirming sports experiences, however, deprives them of the benefits kids receive from athletics, which include lowered risks of anxiety, depression, and suicide attempts.

On top of that, the bill is mostly targeted at trans girls and specifies:

A student who participates in an athletic team or sport designated female, women, or girls must be female, based on the participant's biological sex.

In fact, there is no history of trans women dominating women's sports and there's no evidence of any future threat. Trans women have been allowed to compete at both the NCAA and Olympic levels for over a decade. During that time, not a single trans woman has even *qualified* for the Olympics in any sport. At the NCAA level, only one openly trans woman has won a title, CeCé Telfer in the 400m hurdles in 2019. If there were going to be a supposed trans takeover of women's sports, wouldn't it have happened already? In fact to use an in state example, in 2016 a cisgender female sprinter beat a trans girl who came in 3rd. That same cis athlete then later tried to claim it was unfair that the trans athlete was competing at all... but that's not how it works. You can't claim that someone has an unfair advantage after you have already proved yourself wrong and beat them.

Please, stop trying to solve a problem that doesn't exist with legislation that discriminates against the humans you are supposed to be serving.

Our government is supposed to be for the people and by the people... that includes all of us queer and straight, trans, nonbinary, and cis... not just the people you choose to let sit at the table.

How about we throw this nonsense out and work towards solving real issues impacting the state like infrastructure issues or the violence against native women?

I hope you take my testimony into consideration. I have included the link to the Center for American Progress Study below and it's accompanying fact sheet.

Thank you,

Amanda Becker

CAP Study - <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/fair-play/>

CAP Fact Sheet - <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/fact-sheet-importance-sports-participation-transgender-youth/>

[REDACTED]

From: Joclyn Reilly <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 5:50 PM
To: Senate Education; Sen. Joshua Revak
Subject: SB 140

I am writing to oppose SB 140. As a social worker, I see first hand how these types of policies can harm individuals. Trans folks are already at higher risk of suicide, and keeping them from playing sports with their identified gender is harmful.

I am disappointed that the Senate is wasting valuable time on this non-issue.

Joclyn Reilly

[REDACTED] Anchorage AK 99516

[REDACTED]

From: Deborah Bock [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 6:05 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: I oppose SB 140

Dear Senate Education Committee,

I am writing to oppose SB 140. As a mom to 3 young children and citizen of Alaska, I want my children and their friends to be included in athletics in an inclusive and welcoming way. The purpose of sports is physical activity, team work, and overcoming challenges together. Every child deserves to have the chance to participate in sports including transgender children without harassment or an infringement of privacy. This bill could lead to more and more rights taken away from our children and government overstep by focusing on the sex they were born (which isn't always a dichotomy) and not on the whole child as a intelligent, living being. Please do not pass this bill. All of our children deserve better than questioning and suspicion when they are navigating being their unique, authentic selves. As a school system that prides itself on diversity, please do not silence, shame, and keep hidden those that create that diversity. Please look at the research and history of this issue in full beyond any baseless fears while keeping in mind the many marginalized children it will affect the most. I know many other parents who feel this way.

Thank you for your time and your compassion while you represent us.

Deborah Bock
[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99504

[REDACTED]

From: Jetta Whittaker [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 6:55 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: testimony on SB 140
Attachments: JUUF opposition to SB 140.pdf

Esteemed Senate Education Committee members,

Attached is my testimony on behalf of the Juneau Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, provided to you in advance of Saturday morning's Senate Education Committee meeting where public testimony on SB 140 will be taken.

Thank you for accepting and fairly considering this statement of our moral beliefs opposing SB 140 as you deliberate,

jetta whittaker, chair
Juneau Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Juneau Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

March 8, 2022

Dear Senators Roger Holland, Gary Stevens, Shelly Hughes, Peter Micciche, and Tom Begich, as the members of the Alaska Senate Education Committee:

The Juneau Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (JUUF) strongly opposes SB 140, "An Act relating to school athletics, recreation, athletic teams, and sports." Besides the likelihood of the bill, if passed, being found unconstitutional because it violates an individual's right to privacy, JUUF opposes this bill on moral grounds.

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote seven Principles, which we hold as strong values and moral guides. UUs are called to live out our faith as represented by these Principles on a daily basis. Unitarian Universalism honors diversity of genders and gendered experiences, so our faith opposes discrimination of all peoples based on gender identity. This stand most closely aligns with our first and primary Principle, *The inherent worth and dignity of every person*.

JUUF is a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), which has a long history of support for defending and advocating with transgender, non-binary, and intersex communities. In 2021, the UUA passed this Action of Immediate Witness:

WHEREAS, our faith has publicly called for transgender-affirming actions for over three decades and trans, non-binary, and intersex people are a cherished part of Unitarian Universalism;

WHEREAS, in 2021 over 100 anti-trans U.S. state laws have been proposed, particularly targeting trans youth and trans people with the least power, enabling discrimination in sports, health care, education, birth certificates, and beyond, and at least eighteen bills have been passed in nine states;

WHEREAS, anti-trans bills use false notions of "religious freedom" and "protecting" women and children as an excuse for discrimination;

WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalism supports human rights and dignity for all, including access to employment, education, public accommodations, housing, transportation, sports and recreation, health care, voting, and public services;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT We, the Delegates of the 2021 UUA General Assembly, call on Unitarian Universalists to:

1. Strongly condemn all anti-trans legislation, and demand the repeal of recently passed laws in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota,

South Dakota, Tennessee, and West Virginia, and work to block all additional such bills, particularly those targeting trans youth;

2. Support passage of the Equality Act, inclusive of gender identity protections;
3. Call on President Biden to issue an Executive Order that ensures access to an "X" marker and removes medical requirements for marker changes across federal records (passports, Social Security records, etc.);
4. Call for inclusive policies at all levels of government that remove barriers and binaries, and enact gender-neutral approaches in policy (e.g., airport screenings shouldn't be gender-based, driver's licenses shouldn't need a gender marker); and
5. Work to pass laws that prohibit unnecessary medical interventions on intersex infants/children.

In recognition of this faith-based stand supporting the inherent worth and dignity of every person, which includes to the right for transgender people to participate in school sports without discrimination, we urge the committee to not pass this bill out of committee.

Sincerely,



Jetta Whittaker, Chair
JUUF Board

[REDACTED]

From: Melissa Burger [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 8:31 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Oppose SB 140

To the senate education committee,

I am a born and raise Alaskan. One thing I love about Alaska is how much people love and care for their neighbors.

There are many, many things wrong with SB 140.

For starters, you do realize that if this bill pass you'll now be forcing trans males to compete against females, so there goes your attempt at prevent trans females to compete against biological females. You'll now have males in female sports, which is against your plan. Plus they will now have an advantage which again defeats the purpose of this bill now does it. Trans men are now having lots of testosterone and will have an extra advantage. Every time you guys write anti-trans bills you ALWAYS forget about trans men. Trans men will be force to compete against women, and will more than likely win each and every time. So again, what's the point of the bill? Are you gonna rewrite the entire bill to exclude trans men?

Trans people can start hormonal therapy in their teens. Both genders begin taking hormones and puberty blockers. Some of these trans people want to join sports, which is perfectly normal. There are already so many issues going on and at the end of the day, they are still ALASKANS. We are suppose to help each other not be hateful. This bill is harmful to everyone. You are now defeating the entire purpose of your bill by forcing males to compete against women.

We need to oppose this bill because they're people too and it seems to be only adults who are making a huge fuss over this. Most students athletes don't care and continue to work hard on themselves. They compete and work to better themselves for each game.

Please oppose this bill! It's gonna cause more harm than good.

P.S.

Trans men exist and will now be force to compete against women.

[REDACTED]

From: Paola Banchero [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 8:42 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

March 9, 2022

Senate Education Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Senate.Education@akleg.org

Dear Senate Education Committee members:

I am writing to oppose SB 140.

I am the mother of an athletic 13-year-old girl. I am an educator, having taught at the University of Alaska Anchorage for 18 years. I am also a former Girl Scout troop member and have stayed active in Girl Scout activities.

Young people and their lives are very much something I understand and continue to learn about. I have taught transgendered students and have worked with them throughout my time at UAA. I also have had a transgender youth in my home, caring for my home and my pets in my absence. I have nonbinary young people in my life, and know and care for each of them. From this experience, I know each proposed bill to circumscribe their lives is a deeply scaring moment that causes lasting psychological damage. The rates of suicidal ideation and suicide among transgender youth is way too high. An estimated 86 percent of transgender youth report suicidal ideation, and the factors that counteract terrifying statistic are supportive environments, including schools that foster interpersonal belonging.^[1]

The Alaska Legislature does great harm in just considering such a bill. Our job as adults is to provide support and guidance, not scorn and rejection. Alaska already loses too many young people to suicide. We can't afford to lose any.

My daughter and her athletic friends are unconcerned about the fact that a trans girl might participate in sports alongside them. This is not even in the top 10 or 30 or 50 worries that most adolescent girls have. As a parent, I am also unconcerned that a trans girl could play on the same team as my daughter.

I would also like to add a fiscally conservative element to my plea. It is estimated that between 1,571 to 4,450 people in Alaska are transgender.^[2] Let's say half that number are people under the age of 18 who could conceivably participate in high school and middle

school athletics. That means we are talking about roughly 1,000 to 2,000 young people affected by this proposed bill.

Alaska has far more serious issues that affect a far greater number of people, such as finding ways to diversify our economy. Let's please not spend another moment arguing about a bill that will draw Alaska and Alaskans into yet another protracted and expensive legal fight.^[3]

Paola Banchemo
Anchorage, Alaska

^[1] Austin, A., Craig, S. L., D'Souza, S., & McInroy, L. B. (2020). Suicidality Among Transgender Youth: Elucidating the Role of Interpersonal Risk Factors. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260520915554>

^[2] Flores, A.R., Herman, J.L., Gates, G.T., and Brown, T.N. (2016). How many adults identify as transgender in the United States? The Williams Institute, University of California Los Angeles. Retrieved from <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Trans-Adults-US-Aug-2016.pdf>

^[3] Stockard, S. (2021, Feb 12). Legislature's legal costs raise questions as transgender athlete bill starts rolling. Tennessee Lookout. Retrieved from <https://tennesseelookout.com/2021/02/12/legislatures-legal-costs-raise-questions-as-transgender-athlete-bill-starts-rolling/>

[REDACTED]

From: Meneka Thiru [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 9:30 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

To the Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for considering this email. I am writing in opposition to SB 140. SB 140 violates basic privacy rights because it requires educators and coaches to police whether a student is trans or not, which the school is not legally or ethically authorized to do under medical privacy laws, professionalism standards, and non-discrimination laws. Not only that, SB 140 imposes a narrow and unscientific definition of "sex" that invalidates gender identity, contrary to the growing consensus of medical and mental health professionals, not to mention federal law.

SB 140 is an unnecessary step that would cause undue harm to a small subsection of students and is frankly a waste of this committee's time.

Thank you again for reading this email. I ask you to oppose SB 140.

Sincerely,
Meneka Thiru
Anchorage, 99517

[REDACTED]

From: Marie Skanis [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 8:54 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB-140 Testimony

To whom it may concern,

I appreciate the opportunity for testimony about SB-140. I oppose SB-140 because it violates basic privacy rights, increases the risk of bullying and attacks against trans students, and creates a separate and unequal status for trans youth. Requiring educators and coaches to police whether a student is trans or not, which the school is not legally or ethically authorized to do under medical privacy laws, professionalism standards, and non-discrimination laws, violates basic privacy rights. While fairness concerns may be part of the motivations of this bill, there is simply no data to support such concerns about trans athletes' participation, especially since less than 0.6% of people identify as transgender and not all want to play sports. As a mental health professional, I am very concerned that SB-140 will lead to the stigmatization and isolation of trans students, undermining their health, safety, and social and emotional development.

Marie Skanis, Legislative District 1-A

From: Leslie Fails [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 12:54 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Opposing SB 140

Dear Members of the Senate Education Committee,

I am the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks (UUFF), and a Fairbanks resident. I am writing to you out of deep concern for the safety of the transgender children and youth attending Alaska's schools, and the threat posed to their psychological and physical well-being by SB 140. I express this concern both as a parent and as the minister of a church that serves a large part of our local transgender community.

Excluding transgender girls by refusing them the opportunity to be full participants on sports teams alongside their peers does nothing but inflict harm on vulnerable children and youth. Requiring teachers and coaches to violate the privacy of individual students by actively seeking to identify who is and is not transgender, and then separating them out from their peers, sets the stage for harassment and bullying. Already I am hearing from parents of trans kids who feel terrorized by the onslaught of bills like SB 140, who worry what sort of cruelty this bill and others like it will enable people to inflict upon their children.

I am proud to live in a state that prizes the individuality of every human being and their sacred right to self-determination. For that reason, I ask that you oppose this distinctly un-Alaskan bill, which appears to be part of a wider lower-48 trend of legislation seeking to further marginalize transgender student athletes. For the sake of our transgender children, youth, and their families, my prayer is that the committee will refuse to advance SB 140.

With gratitude,

Rev. Leslie Ahuvah Fails
Minister, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | uuff.org

From: Libby Sterling [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 1:05 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140 Testimony

Hello Senators,

My name is Libby Sterling and I'm writing from Homer. I was extremely disappointed to learn of the last-minute cancellation of public testimony on March 3 for SB 140 in favor of invited testimony from folks with largely limited or zero ties to Alaska, and which painted a clear agenda with those out-of-state "experts" in favor of the bill. This is a slap in the face to your constituents, and it has happened too many times in the past as well with other controversial legislation. Actions such as this reinforce concerns amongst your constituents that you actually don't care about us or our views on state issues.

The bill's supporters claim that this bill will ensure equality, but that is impossible as you simultaneously single out another minority group, in this case, school-aged trans girls. It's arguably a complex issue, but it is also very simple. When you propose to add a ban on participation for a single group of people in an existing system, you essentially weaken the entire system and create additional problems for everyone who utilizes the system. You can't simply ban something that you don't like in the name of equality. A system, such as school sports, that was created with specific limitations—in this case, only allowing participation by some children while excluding other children—must be reevaluated if true equality and inclusion are the actual objective. Fair access and equality were the aims of Title IX, which seems to be touted as gospel truth by members of the committee and invited testimony participants. If Title IX isn't working for everyone, then it's essentially working for no one and should be recognized as a good stepping stone toward a better future outcome. Invited testimony members continually used the phrase, "It's not fair." And with passage of this bill, it will still not be fair. Sometimes we must truly go back to the drawing board and find solutions that shock an existing system in order to achieve equality. It's clear through the language of the bill and from the committee's actions so far that equality is not your actual objective.

I appreciated Sen. Begich's quick highlighting of the data that points to higher rates of suicide and other problems common amongst children who experience discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation. This is serious, and should have been the first thing to be discussed, not just a side note squished in to the last few minutes of the hour. With the passage of this bill as it is, you will have that blood on your hands whether or not you'd like to admit it.

High school should be about learning to work and play well with others, especially with those who are different from ourselves. There is power in diversity. You are setting a very dangerous example for our youth with this bill and with the way you have gone about introducing it and with the one-sided, hand-picked invited testimony. If I wanted to listen to a lawyer from Georgia read from a script, or a male former coach discuss girls' physical development as "negative," I would not think to look to the Alaska legislature. Listen to your constituents. Give us a voice. If you have to pass supposed "fairness" legislation with unfair practices that dismiss your constituents, we have a big problem.

Please do the right thing.

Sincerely,
Libby Sterling

From: Red Z.R. Coffey [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 1:59 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Testimony against SB 140

To the esteemed members of the Ak Senate,

I am writing to urge you to oppose SB 140, which seeks to make it impossible transgender and gender non-conforming youth to fully participate in school and public life by banning them from participating in sports according to their correct gender.

There are many reasons why this bill is foolhardy, over and above its discriminatory nature. For one thing, the logistics of testing for "biological sex" are unclear. How would abnormalities be addressed? Biological sex is curved spectrum-- most people are in the wide center of the curve, but many people are at the tail ends of what is "normal" for their sex. For example, most women are smaller and lighter than most men, but there are individual non-transgender women who are within what we'd consider the male range for height and muscle. Similarly, there are small and light non-transgender men in the world. Hormonal profiles and genetic profiles also vary widely across the population. There is no standard for biological sex that can be tested that will not exclude at least some students who are not transgender-- surely these students also deserve to participate?

There's also the possibility that a parent or student may dishonestly accuse another student of being transgender, leading to lengthy and expensive testing so that the student will be excluded from competing. Where are the provisions for these students who are definitely not transgender but merely a target of bullying and unsportsmanlike behavior?

If this bill were to pass, who would pay for testing for biological sex? The bill asks that teachers and coaches determine biological sex, which is typically done with a combination of medical testing, usually hormonal and genetic. Would paying for this and taking the time off to do it not be a burden on someone, either at the school district level or at the family level? Would this burden not prevent many students from participating in sports?

And why can't transgender students participate in sports? Don't they also deserve to build skills, get exercise, make friends on the team, and be part of their school's tradition? Don't they also deserve to try and win?

While I know the argument against this is that they're welcome to participate as their assigned gender at birth, let me put it this way: you can't force a kid to be not transgender. When you try, you don't get a non-transgender adult at the end-- you either get a dead trans kid or a trans adult who doesn't speak to their family and leaves their unfriendly community of origin. Don't you want healthy, happy, productive Alaskans to come from our school system? Don't you want Alaskans to stick around and make our state great? Isn't sports a part of that?

I'm a transgender adult and I'm one of the lucky ones who didn't die by suicide and I'm begging you to please make it easier on kids than it was for me. Nobody should have to wall off a part of themselves when they're growing up. It's corrosive to the soul and we should not make kids go through that. At most, it's a private decision for the individual, their family, and their doctors.

Transgender people are a part of your community and we'd like to participate as our whole selves. This includes youth. Alaska is better than this-- we don't need to exclude anyone.

I'd be happy to speak to you personally about this, and in fact, I'm happy to meet you in person in case you've never met a transgender person before. Many people haven't, and I get that many are curious. If you have an open mind, I'll make

time for you-- I live in Anchorage, but I'll travel. My personal cell is [REDACTED] and I'm free Sundays and Mondays, but I also answer my messages. You can also email at this address.

In any case, I expect a reply to find out whether my representatives have my back or not, and what they're doing to ensure that all Alaskans have a fair shot, including our transgender youth.

Thanks,
Red Coffey

[REDACTED]

From: Eric Muehling [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 3:51 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Strongly Oppose SB 140

Hi AK Leg,

Being transgender is normal and human.

Discrimination is wrong. So is SB 140.

Get it out of your head that being transgender something to hide from public view.

Most Americans have learned to live with — and accept — trans folks. Most Americans support equal rights.

Please oppose this backward-thinking bill.

Eric Muehling
Fairbanks, Alaska

[REDACTED]

From: Claire Lubke [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 6:17 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Oppose SB 140: Please don't further marginalize children

Hi,
My name is Claire Lubke. I grew up and currently live in Anchorage. I went to O'Malley Elementary, Hanshew Middle School, Service High School, and University of Alaska Anchorage.
I'm writing to the Senate Education Committee to express my opposition to SB 140. I'm sure you'll hear plenty from people whose fundamental beliefs are challenged by trans youth, but please, make practical considerations. This legislation further marginalizes a population of children that already experience much higher rates of bullying and suicide. The invasiveness and shame that this legislation promotes is not a way to protect children, especially not those who need it most.

Please empathize with those who are most affected by this legislation and chose to reduce harm by voting no.
Thank you,
Claire Lubke

[REDACTED]

From: Karl Bergman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 7:16 AM
To: Senate Education; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: Testimony on SB 140.

Honorable Senators,

I appreciate and thank you for taking the time to read this email.

I am writing to ask you to oppose SB 140, the bill regarding the prevention of trans youth from participating in sports.

Denying trans students the opportunity to participate strips them of the many benefits of participating in sports, including better self-esteem, increased sense of belonging, and improved grades that come from that well-being. This bill would violate basic privacy rights by requiring educators and coaches to police whether a student is trans or not, which the school is not legally or ethically authorized to do under medical privacy laws, professionalism standards, and non-discrimination laws.

This bill imposes a narrow and unscientific definition of "sex" that invalidates gender identity – this is contrary to the growing consensus of medical and mental health professionals, not to mention federal law.

Please oppose SB 140 as it will not solve any real issues, but will instead actively stigmatize, isolate, and deny basic participation in school activities to trans students.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Karl Bergman
99709

[REDACTED]

From: eli michael [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 12:39 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Opposition SB 140

To committee members,

My name is Eli Michael and I live in Anchorage 99508.

Thank you for your all your work and time in this bill and listening to both sides.

I am in opposition of Sb140.

I work as a mental health provider for youth and participation in sports plays a large part in a healthy development. Being together with peers promotes pro-social skills which include: teamwork, engagement with others, conflict resolution and positive social experiences. Allowing youth to be on teams that align with their gender identity promote a sense of agency, self-esteem, and belief in self which leads to healthy development. When somebody is celebrated and a part of something they are more likely to engage in positive activities, have increase resilience to life stressors, and are engaged at school and at home. Youth who are not supported or validated experience increase psychological distress, are at risk for failing school, increase risk for use of substances and are at-risk for trouble in the community. This increases the need for additional services such as health-care, public services and social programs.

I am in opposition to SB 140. I hope you are also for healthy development of our community and are also in opposition to SB 140.

Thank you,
Eli Michael

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 1:12 PM
To: jcrit@gci.net; Senate Education
Subject: RE: Alaska SB 140

Jim,

That is beyond excellent in wording and so powerful. I am guessing you don't mind if I change it a bit and send it with my name below do you?

Lynne'

From: jcrit@gci.net [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 10:36 AM
To: senate.education@akleg.gov
Subject: Alaska SB 140

To: Members of Alaska Senate Education Committee -

The current SB 140 being considered is nothing more than an ultra-conservative hate bill disguised under the premise that it is there to protect our youth and allow them to compete freely in sports without fear of gender identity being used as an advantage. School sports are for everyone regardless of abilities and regardless of gender or gender identity. School sports are helpful for youths to learn the skills of self confidence and team work and maturity. 99% of youths participating in school sports never go on to professional sports, however they will use the tools learned during school sports and apply them to their young adult lives. What kind of message are you sending to our youth by passing SB 140? That it's ok to exclude certain people because they are different? This type of attack on Trans youth targets them as not "fitting in" with society. This bill being considered will only generate fear and exclusion at a time in young person's life when they are most vulnerable. This type of trauma is lasting and hinders a person's ability to grow into a productive, confident adult. Those that are in support of this bill are actually in support of ostracizing Trans youth and adults from our society based upon their transphobic, misguided, bigoted belief, that it is a Sin to be a Transgender person. This type of fear mongering does not belong in our schools nor in our political decisions.

Jim Crittenden - Anchorage, Alaska

[REDACTED]

From: John Bender [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 1:15 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Statement of Opposition to SB 140

I am writing to you today as the parent of seven school age children in Alaska. I strongly oppose this bill as it would effectively ban transgender athletes from participating in school sponsored sports. I remind you that our public school system serves all students and should provide the same opportunities for all students to participate in school sponsored activities, including sports teams.

Children suffering from gender dysphoria (regardless of whether they seek gender-affirming care, no matter their gender identity, or if they are considered "transgendered") suffer a significantly higher risk of suicide and other self-destructive behaviors. A 2021 study by the Trevor Project found that 52% of transgender and non-binary young people expressed suicidal ideation. That is more than half of this population that thought that they would be better off dead rather than having to live with being constantly excluded, bullied, and isolated, not to mention being used as political pawns in a culture war, where their value in society is constantly under attack with legislation such as this one.

I think that most parents would agree that if these shocking statistics were reflective of a demographic that included their own children, we would be outraged and demand that schools and society at large do something to show these kids that they are loved, that bullying is never acceptable, that they are not alone, and that they, like all other kids, have the ability to accomplish great deeds.

Those of us who are not suffering from gender dysphoria may not be able to really understand what it feels like. But all of us have, at one point or another, experienced being an outsider. I am certain that no student athlete (or anyone else for that matter) makes the decision to undergo medical treatment for gender dysphoria lightly. The standards of care for youth require consultation and counseling with medical professionals who must agree that this treatment is necessary. No male athlete is becoming a trans-female just to gain an edge in competition.

School sports are not meant primarily to be pre-professional training for athletes or a training ground for highly competitive athletes that may go on to compete at national and international levels. Nor is the primary purpose to serve as a conduit for athletic scholarships for higher education. There are already sports clubs available outside of the public school system for students with an ambition to compete at the state, national, international, and olympic levels.

If a transgender athlete happens to defeat a female athlete in a school sponsored competition, but both athletes have both done their best, then both can feel proud of their accomplishment. At the end of the day, for school sports, it is the discipline, teamwork, and the opportunity for kids to test their mettle that matters. Not who wins first place.

Finally, this bill is part of a concerted effort to further marginalize an already vulnerable group that really is a small subset of the population. Please do not vote to exclude. Please vote AGAINST SB 140.

Best regards,

John Bender
[REDACTED]
Talkeetna, Alaska

[REDACTED]

From: Lynda Giguere [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 1:18 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Oppose Senate Bill 140

To the Committee,

I strongly oppose SB 140, a bill that singles out our transgender youth for discrimination.

I know this is part of a National agenda, as this and similar anti-gay and LGBTQ bills are being spoon-fed to legislatures nationwide. This ugliness has no business here.

Please resist any agenda that seeks to instill fear of others and divisiveness to mobilize a base of voters.

Respectfully,
Lynda Giguere
Douglas, Alaska

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Frana Burtness-Adams [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 1:57 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB140 - Oppose

My name is Frana Burtness-Adams, 99708

I am here to STRONGLY oppose Senate Bill 140.

I grew up in Fairbanks, on Lower Tanana Dene land. I went to Weller, Tanana, and Lathrop.

And I, like a lot of Alaskan children, grew up playing sports. All the time. All year round.

The feeling of hitting a three pointer at the buzzer...the perfect set that floats to your hitter... flying over a hurdle on the track... hugging your teammate after they scored the game winning goal... and road trips with my friends and teammates.

Sports were my life in high school. It taught me the importance of a strong work ethic, in everything that I did. It taught me what leadership looked and felt like and how to juggle multiple responsibilities at once. It allowed me to push my comfort zone in a safe setting and expand my understanding of the world. It allowed me the opportunity to travel to new parts of this spectacular state.

In a time of deep insecurity (aka high school for everyone), sports gave me the confidence to feel like I could succeed and that I was headed in the right direction. Sports was the reason I had motivation to go to college.

If you pass this bill, you are taking away the possibility for these kinds of memories to happen for hundreds of Alaskan children.

And I have to ask, Why?!

Why is it important to deny these opportunities to anyone? Why, is this a priority?!

Sports gave me life experience... it helped form foundational social and emotional skills... and most importantly, it provided me with life lessons that I learned early.

This bill is dangerous and cruel. It targets students of color, openly and blatantly discriminates, violates basic privacy rights, weaponizes and incorrect definition of sex, and excludes students from being a part of their school community.

I strongly oppose Senate Bill 140 and highly recommend you all do the same.

Thank you for your time.

--
"Have the bravery to act and the humility to be corrected" - Cana Uluak Itchuaqiyag

Frana BA

She/Her - what's this?

JEDI Consultant | Facilitator | Executive & Leadership Coach



YouTube: [FranaBA](#)

LI: [Frana BA](#)

IG: [frabuada](#)

FB: [Frana BA](#)

I acknowledge and honor the peoples of the Lower Tanana Dene tribe, the rightful stewards of the [land I am on](#). I honor the lives, languages, and cultures by addressing my internalized white supremacy, paying reparations, and holding white people in my life accountable.

I see and support Indigenous and Native youth, activists, leaders, parents, elders, and ancestors for their continued work to get their rightful [#LandBack](#) [#DefendTheSacred](#)

[REDACTED]

From: jess zenata [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 2:07 PM
To: Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich; Senate Education
Subject: Testimony in opposition of SB 140 from an interior Alaskan - please read

Hello to everyone on the State of Alaska Senate Education Committee (who are all copied here):

My name is Jessica and I am a five year resident of Alaska, residing in the beautiful Denali borough.

I am writing to express my utmost concern at the potential passing of SB 140, which is being reviewed by the Alaska Senate Education Committee:
Please record my opposition and this email testimony.

Upon my review of SB 140 and watching the first hearing with my stomach in knots (and my "childbearing hips" wanting no where near that retired gym teacher), and consideration of the hysteria being stoked across this country, I find that this bill is based in fear, and not wanting to understand other people.

I urge you all to think of **everyone** who lives in the 49th state, and those who visit, from all around the world.

Recognize that there are trans people in every single part of this state – in every single industry - whether you know it or not...and if any of you have ever gotten coffee or been to a restaurant in Juneau...you know this, too. You should. I'm married to a trans person, and count others as friends in my own borough, and others.

Trans people are beautiful, and trans kids are heroes.
More importantly, they're kids! Let them be kids!
Let them explore identity and gender, and play sports, too.

Trans people have always been here, and always will be, no matter the hysterical, hate-driven attempts that fuster throughout modern history.

For the record, the "witch trials" of Salem, Massachusetts are not looked back fondly in history...and neither will this war against trans children and the all-encompassing, growing LGBTQ community and its allies. Did you know that according to a recent Gallup poll, *"21% of Generation Z Americans – those born from 1997 to 2003 – identified as LGBTQ"*. This has doubled since 2012! [Source here](#). In other words, we get stronger every single day - hence the fear building.

I urge you all to not move SB 140 forward, and speak for myself, my community, and all those already afraid to speak.

Break this "red state" trend of division. Alaska can be better than that, and should be.

Sincerely,

Jessica D
Denali Borough, Alaska

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 2:27 PM
To: Senate Education
Cc: Crittenden, Jim
Subject: Alaska SB 140

To: Members of Alaska Senate Education Committee -

My brother in-law just sent this well worded message to you and I would like to add my name to this communication.

My niece is trans and because of her I have learned so much about the transition from one sex to another and how the body changes because of the drugs that are taken. When we look at the trans community it is a VERY SMALL population in society and then you widdle it down to trans people who want to play in sports and it must be .00001% of the population. These laws that are being created are divisive and prejudiced and our elected officials need to educate themselves on how the hormones taken change the physiology of the person so there is no 'advantage' to being trans and out performing heterosexual athletes. For example, males that transition to females lose muscle and perform at a lower level than when they were male. Society has come a long way at understanding homosexuality and accepting homosexuals as part of society and we are working our way to understanding trans people now. This law hinders our efforts to accept all people no matter what race, creed, sexual orientation or identity we have. Our elected officials need to lead society and forbid ignorance and fear from being the factor that creates laws that do harm to others.

Sincerely,
Lynne' Langevin-Doran – Girdwood Alaska

The current SB 140 being considered is nothing more then an ultra-conservative hate bill disguised under the premise that it is there to protect our youth and allow them to compete freely in sports without fear of gender identity being used as an advantage.

School sports are for everyone regardless of abilities and regardless of gender or gender identity.

School sports are helpful for youths to learn the skills of self confidence and team work and maturity.

99% of youths participating in school sports never go on to professional sports, however they will use the tools learned during school sports and apply them to their

young adult lives. What kind of message are you sending to our youth by passing SB 140? That it's ok to exclude certain people because they are different? This type of attack on Trans youth targets them as not "fitting in" with society. This bill being considered will only generate fear and exclusion at a time in young person's life when they are most vulnerable. This type of trauma is lasting and hinders a persons ability to grow into a productive, confident adult. Those that are in support of this bill are actually in support of ostracizing Trans youth and adults from our society based upon their transphobic, misguided, bigoted belief, that it is a Sin to be a Transgender person. This type of fear mongering does not belong in our schools nor in our political decisions.

Jim Crittenden - Anchorage, Alaska

[REDACTED]

From: Robb Nesvick [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 2:41 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

Good Morning

I am writing to voice my opposition to SB140.

Bills like this one are, in point of fact, a waste of time. I'm not writing to enumerate my many moral and emotional objections to bills like these (though objections I have many). I am sure you will hear many such arguments today and probably far more eloquent and personal than I can offer.

But this bill seems to lack any comprehensive reason for its existence. Reading it over I cannot see *why* we are wasting our resources on it.

Are people being actively harmed by trans-children obtaining a position on the team?

Do supporters realize that life is not an episode of M*A*S*H or the film Lady Bugs where greed and personal gain are the root cause for a person to wear drag and try to game the system.

No trans-child is undergoing the years of self-doubt, therapy(Physical and mental), and sadly often the ridicule of their situation so they can throw on a wig to help the girls team win that coveted JR high trophy.

This is an empty straw-man argument floated to cover a deeper fear of something new and different. I can see no practical reason why this bill exists except to enforce a singular world view.

And governments are not representative of a singular world view.

Change is hard. REALLY Hard. And scary. But covering our eyes and ears and chanting "LA LA LA I CAN'T HEAR YOU" is not how we should proceed when introduced to new ideas.

And certainly should not be representative of our legislature.

Thank you for your time.

Robert Nesvick
[REDACTED]
Anchorage Alaska

[REDACTED]

From: Heather Gause [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 3:08 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140 comment

Hello,

My name is Heather Gause and I live in Ketchikan, Alaska. I am emailing to state that I am in opposition of Senate Bill 140. We are in a time in which the world needs to show compassion and understanding to all, not only to those that fit within certain societal parameters. All women are women, and all girls are girls. These girls deserve the right to play just as any other girl would. In a world already filled with so much hate, I beg you not to open the door for more hatefulness towards trans youth.

Respectfully,

Heather Gause

[REDACTED]

From: Mary Burtress [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 3:23 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: against SB14-

Dear Committee Members:

As a parent of a Queer daughter, I fully object to this bill leaving this committee. There are so many more important things for you to get done than denying rights to students. This is such blatant discrimination against a group of Americans. It will only end up in costly litigation to the state.

Get on to more important issues, like the shortage of teachers due to dwindling benefits for teachers in our state.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comment.
Mary C Burtress

[REDACTED]

From: D Sherba [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 3:31 PM
To: Senate Education; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: Vote No on SB 140

Dear Committee Members:

I strongly urge you to oppose SB 140 regarding preventing trans youth from participating in sports.

I am particularly appalled at how enforcing this bill would violate basic privacy rights of the all students, and place educators/coaches in an untenable position of having to choose between violating privacy laws or SB140. As if transgender students don't have enough to deal with emotionally, physically, mentally, this bill would add to their challenges by denying them the benefits of participating in a team sport. I agree with the professional opinion of Billy Strickland, Executive Director of the Alaska School Activities Association, who said, "this is a solution looking for a problem".

Please vote no on SB 140!

Respectfully,

Dayle

Ms Dayle Sherba

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99516
District/Precinct: 28-110

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 3:47 PM
To: Senate Education; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Cc: Rep. Andy Josephson; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson
Subject: Opposition to SB 140

Dear Committee Members:

Thank you for reading my email. I am asking you to oppose SB 140 regarding preventing trans youth from participating in sports.

Trans youth are an especially vulnerable population with a much higher risk of violence, homelessness, and suicide. We know that sports in school builds self-esteem and confidence and promotes improved grades and good health. Most importantly, in my view as an athlete and a coach, it builds a sense of belonging, a community that shares your love of your sport and supports you in achieving your goals.

I was born and raised in Anchorage, and I attended Bettye Davis East Anchorage High School, as did my two adult daughters. I ran cross-country, track and I was on the ski team. I also played soccer before it was a high school sport and for a few years at University of Oregon. I have built a successful coaching business, Multisport Training of Alaska, coaching adult triathletes. I have coached at the high school level, both track and cross-country running, at my alma mater. I was a state champion in the 800 meters, and I have coached boys and girls, individuals and teams, to region and state championships. I have won the Gold Nugget Triathlon, the Eagle River Triathlon, and the Hammerman Triathlon. I have competed at the national and international level in triathlon. Triathlon has a rigorous selection for age group competition, sometimes with only one slot per race to qualify for the world championship. I tell you all this so that you know, never once have I felt that a competition was unfair to me or my coached athletes because another competitor was transgender.

Transgender people make up less than 1% of the population. Competitive transgender athletes are an even smaller percentage of that tiny percentage. Sports has a long history of policing women's bodies. Women have been subjected to invasive tests, including physical examinations, chromosome testing and hormone testing. Men are not gender tested. This bill seems squarely aimed at transgender girls and would be requiring coaches and educators to police bodies, deciding if any girl athlete appears to satisfy what it means to be a girl in our society.

Although we have come so far since Title IX was passed in 1972, we still have some distance to journey before there is gender equity in sports. Equal pay, more women coaches and administrators, and respect in the media and from the public are just a few examples of the positive work that can be done to even the playing field. Banning transgender athletes does the opposite, by focusing on something that is not even a problem and not supporting girls to be their true, authentic selves.

Please oppose this extremely harmful and unnecessary bill. Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Lisa Keller

Represented by Elvi Gray-Jackson in the Senate
Represented by Andy Josephson in the House

[REDACTED]

From: Deb McGimsey [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 3:51 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Senate Bill 140

My name is Debra McGimsey and I live in Eagle River, AK. I am writing in opposition to Senate Bill 140 outlawing the participation of transgender girls in High School sports. This bill violates students rights to privacy and anti-discrimination. The teenage years are fraught with peer pressure and emotional stress for all youth of this age, and especially so for youth dealing with a gender identity issues. There is no need to further restrict and label these youth, beyond the pressure they already feel. No one chooses to transition sex for an upper hand in sports; the idea is ridiculous. The harm you will do to these youth by banning them from social activities and labeling them as somehow "wrong" is far worse than the perception of any harm to an athlete competing with them. Being allowed to participate in sports with their peers might just bring greater enlightenment to everyone involved. Surely the AK Legislature has far greater challenges at hand than passing discrimination bills aimed at Alaskan youth. I hope that you will also oppose Senate Bill 140.

Thank you are your time and consideration.

Debra McGimsey
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Ryan Morse [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 3:55 PM
To: Senate Education; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: A letter in opposition to SB 140

Dear Alaska Senate Education Committee,

My name is Ryan Morse and I live in Sitka, Alaska. I am writing to **voice my strong opposition** to SB 140.

SB 140 actively stigmatizes and denies basic participation in school activities to trans students. This is a harmful, discriminatory bill that would only stigmatize transgender girls here in Alaska.

This bill would be a violation of basic privacy rights by making teachers and coaches police whether or not a student is trans. Schools are not legally authorized to do this under medical privacy laws as well as non-discrimination laws. This is an unnecessary overreach and a discriminatory one at that.

As the Senate Education Committee you are charged with jurisdiction over the programs and activities for all students here in Alaska, and an important part of that includes ensuring equity for all students. This bill would lead to the stigmatization and isolation of trans students in schools and recreational activities, undermining their health, safety, and social and emotional development – something that no student of any age, race, or gender should be subjected to.

I would suggest that if the Senate Education Committee is concerned about gender parity in schools, they should focus instead on issues of unequal funding and resources.

I ask you to oppose SB 140 regarding preventing trans youth from participating in sports. Thank you.

Ryan Morse
Sitka, Alaska
99835

[REDACTED]

From: Nathan Borson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 5:26 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Oppose SB 140

Dear Alaska Senate Education Committee:

I respectfully ask that you oppose SB 140, which would prevent trans girls from participating in school sports. This bill is aggressive discrimination masquerading as a solution to a non-problem. If you wish to do something to help girls' sports, give it funding equal to boys' sports.

Friends of mine have a trans daughter. Even with supportive parents it takes great courage and risks ostracism for a trans person to be themselves; the Alaska legislature would be wrong to worsen their difficulty; they are constituents and deserve equal protection under your law. I don't know if my friends' daughter wants to participate in school sports, but I strongly support her right to do so. Please oppose this cruel and discriminatory bill.

Sincerely,
Nathan Borson
Gustavus, AK 99826

From: Crittenden Family iPad
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 5:39 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Opposition of SB 140

I am a Mother of a transgender young woman and I know of which I speak.

In 2020, 20 states introduced High School sports bans, one of which passed in Idaho and has since been enjoined with the court noting an 'absence of any empirical evidence justifying the law.' In 2021 so far dozens of states have introduced similar bans, even when lawmakers cannot cite a single case of a transgender girl in sports. The N.C.A.A., the International Olympic Committee and various professional and amateur leagues have allowed transgender athletes to participate in alignment with their gender identity since as early as 2004.

15 states and Washington, D.C.- together have more than 6.8 million High School students and approximately 42% of transgender High School youth- have policies allowing trans students to participate in high school sports without requirements of medical and legal transitioning.

The Biden Administration recently interpreted the U.S. Supreme Courts decision in Bostock v Clayton County as prohibiting gender identity as discrimination under Title IX. This interpretation will protect trans students from discrimination, including in the context of school sports participation.

These are current U.S. policies on sports participation for trans students. Sports participation is lower among trans youth in part because of existing policies that limit access.

My main focus and concern is with mental health. Transgender youth already face high rates of family and peer rejection, violence, discrimination and suicidality. An analysis of data aggregated from the 15 states with publicly available data that assessed gender identity in the 2017 and 2019 Youth risk Behavior State and Local Survey (YRBS), a representative study of individuals in grades 9 through 12, showed that almost 44 percent of transgender youth, versus 16 percent of cisgender youth, reported considering suicide in the previous year.

Some transgender youth are so fearful of being kicked off the team, they choose instead to not disclose their identity (and thus not captured by available statistics), perpetuating transphobia and gender dysphoria. Fears and safety concerns around using gender-segregated athletic and athletic adjacent facilities - such as locker rooms and bathrooms, as well as physical education classes - further complicates every aspect of the school athletic experience for transgender and non-binary youth.

As noted in GLSEN's 2019 National School Climate Survey, almost 60 percent of transgender youth reported avoiding school locker rooms, and more that 80 percent reported avoiding bathrooms at school due to safety concerns. My own child developed multiple bladder infections from avoiding the bathrooms until she got home from school. That's nearly 8 hours! That's unthinkable.

Transgender youth should have equal access to the benefits of sports participation. When denied these opportunities they experience significant harms. Sports provide opportunities to learn leadership, teamwork, self-esteem, tolerance, discipline, and community - benefits that should be available to every young person.

During a pandemic and economic crisis that should demand policy makers' full attention and government response many anti LGBTQ legislators are instead using their time and resources to advocate for bills that would ban transgender students from playing sports.

Much progress has been made in both policy and public opinion on issues such as marriage equality and expanded protections against discrimination. Opponents of LGBTQ equality have mobilized to stoke transphobia and legislate anti-transgender policies by focusing on the participation of transgender youth in school athletic programs.

The reality can't be ignored that transgender women and girls are women and girls and transgender men and boys are men and boys.

I oppose SB140 100%. It is harmful and misguided. Ignorance is not an excuse to target anyone, especially the vulnerable and innocent. Lead with love.

Respectfully,
Mollie J. Crittenden

Sent from my good wishes

From: Melody Main [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 5:39 PM
To: Senate Education; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Roger Holland
Cc: Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Peter Micciche
Subject: SB 140

Hello,

Thank you for taking the time to read this email concerning SB 140. My name is Melody Hawkins and I am a mother and a constituent from South Anchorage. I am opposed to SB 140.

Bills like SB 140, while they have not proven in any manner to protect youths who identify with their assigned gender at birth, have been nothing but detrimental to those who do not in ways including but not limited to bullying, depression, and higher rates of suicide.

The American Psychological Association affirms that transgender and nonbinary students should have full and equal access to the sports teams that align with their gender (APA, 2020). There is also strong evidence that "an opportunity for adolescents to participate in sports results in positive outcomes, such as better grades, greater homework completion, higher educational and occupational aspirations, and improved self-esteem (Darling et al., 2005; Fredericks & Eccles, 2006; Marsh & Kleitman, 2003; Nelson, & Gordon-Larsen, 2006; Ortega et al., 2008; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2008)" (APA, 2022). Allowing trans and nonbinary youths to play sports to the best of their abilities, meaning allowing them to play on the teams that align with their genders, would only increase these effects. After all, isn't that what we want for all our children?

Promoting baseless fears through bills like SB 140 does nothing to solve the real problems with youth sports, such as unequal funding for minorities and unequal access for disabled youths.

Please oppose SB 140. The health and happiness of our children count on it.

Thank you again,
Melody Hawkins

[REDACTED]

From: Trumaine McNeill [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 6:44 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

Thank you for taking the time to read my email. I will start by saying I oppose SB 140 because I don't believe there isn't enough data to back up concerns about fairness. Also the bill will violate basic privacy rights of students by people who aren't trained to handle such situations. I personally feel that people should be able to express themselves in anyway as long as they don't bring harm on to someone else. I just want to reiterate that I oppose SB 140. Thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]

From: Tess Giant [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 7:14 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Oppose SB 140

Dear Senate Education Committee,

I oppose SB 140.

This bill is a step backwards and does not support children's health, safety or well being in any way.

Thank you,

Tess Ramsey
[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801

[REDACTED]

From: Sanchez [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 7:22 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Opposing SB140

Dear Legislators,

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Please oppose SB140, with regards to preventing trans youth from being able to participate in sports. This bill will lead to the isolation of trans students, inhibiting their mental and emotional growth and health. There is no scientific data that supports fairness concerns for when trans athletes participate.

I oppose this bill because trans rights are human rights. And every child has the right to play sports.

Again, I ask you to please stop this bill.

Thank you,

Alexander Sanchez, District I-18

[REDACTED]

From: Stefanie Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 7:40 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Opposition SB140

March 11, 2022

Senate Education Committee
Senator Roger Holland, Chair
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Opposition to SB140

Dear Hon. Roger Holland, Chair, and Committee Members:

My name is Stefanie Davis and I reside in district 34.

I am writing in to loudly voice my opposition to SB140 in pursuance of protecting rights to privacy and health. Transgender youth should be treated with dignity and respect and this bill is blatantly discriminatory.

The arguments in support of this bill propose that cisgender women are inferior in competitive sports against transgender women and will suffer the loss of prize scholarships and awards. The benefits to participating in sports far exceed the monetary gains and the concerns are mostly baseless and paranoid. Gender policing is bad for everyone. Youth athletes should be able to participate in sports activities as their true selves.

Transgender teens are already at an extremely high risk for suicide due to bullying and unacceptance. This thinly veiled attempt at creating further discrimination against them will cause irreparable harm. Do the right thing. Oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

Stefanie Davis
Juneau, AK

[REDACTED]

From: Jason Norris [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 7:40 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB140

Senators,

I condemn this divisive and discriminatory bill in the strongest terms possible and encourage you all to vote against it.

Sincerely,
Jason Norris

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 7:46 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

Please oppose this divisive, discriminatory and unconstitutional bill. Focus instead on addressing a long term fiscal plan for Alaska. Thank you. Glenn Cravez, [REDACTED] Anchorage, Alaska 99502.

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 8:12 AM
To: Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: *****SPAM***** SB 140

Dear Senate Education Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to express my opposition to SB 140. As a retired educator, I am concerned that this discriminatory bill will increase trans students' risk of being bullied and attacked. Despite schools' efforts to promote an inclusive environment, bullying is prevalent in our educational system. This bill does not promote a free and appropriate education for all students. All students need to have the right to participate in all educational opportunities, including sports.

I ask you to vote against SB 140 which jeopardizes students' rights to privacy.

Karen Murdock
Homer, AK 99603

[REDACTED]

From: GCI [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 8:21 PM
To: Senate Education
Cc: Odin Brudie
Subject: SB140

Honorable Senators,

SB140, the so called Level Playing Field act, is anything but that. It is a condemnation of young athletes who are trying to find their ground. I am a middle school athletics coach and I have been coaching in Alaska for 40 years. You will be amazed how disparate kids come together as a team to initiate tolerance, good sportsmanship, and self determination, all on their own. The level of healthy competition rises along with it.

It is normal to see kids seeking to be grounded in their sexual gender. The last thing on their mind is choosing to identify with a gender in which they can exceed their peers in the sport. It really is a delicate journey for them. I am thankful they value team camaraderie over removing themselves from the team, or contemplating, or even attempting suicide. Thank you for espousing tolerance and teamwork over condemning young peoples life choices.

Sincerely,
Odin Brudie, Juneau.

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Ella Mayo-Kiely [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 9:24 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Written Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 140

Senators,

I am writing as one of your young voting constituents, a high school senior whose first state election will be this year. I am an Alaskan. I am a student. I am an athlete. I am also trans. With my experience of both competing as a female and existing in this world as a transgender child and adolescent, I strongly urge you to oppose Senate Bill 140.

I have been a varsity athlete since beginning middle school, and the community around cross country skiing has been one of the best throughout my middle and high school career. Skiing has always been a place of community for me, a place where I feel safe and welcomed for who I am. If this bill, Senate Bill 140, passes and is signed into law, that will no longer be the case. I, along with all my trans and queer peers, will no longer be able to feel safe or welcome in school sports. We will be forced to choose between our identities, who we are as human beings, and the sports and communities which we have loved so dearly. This loss of community, or fear for it, will not only lead to students leaving sports but will result in devastating mental health repercussions in a population that is already at severe risk for depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation. Transgender youth experience suicidal thoughts and ideation around three times more frequently than their cisgender peers, and passing a bill such as this one will only worsen the problem. This should be of utmost concern in a state which already has the second highest suicide rate in the nation.

As a student, as an athlete, as a transgender individual, and as an Alaskan about to cast my vote in my first state election, I strongly urge you to vote no on SB 140 and stop the progression of any similar actions through our legislature.

Respectfully,

El Mayo-Kiely, 18

Jupiter Drive, Anchorage AK 99507

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[REDACTED]

From: Mary Geddes [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 9:44 PM
To: Senate Education
Cc: Sen. Tom Begich; Zack Fields
Subject: SB 140- Opposition Statement

Dear Members of the Senate Education Committee,

I urge you to NOT PASS SB 140. The bill is a 'solution' in search of any real problem in Alaska.

Moreover, this bill will cripple youth sports, by painting a target on every school teacher's and part-time coach's back, and thereby discouraging their involvement. Right now, our coaches better children's lives by encouraging and supporting participation in sports. But with this bill you would require that coaches make determinations beyond their expertise and to exclude - not include - some of the children from healthy activities. If this bill passes, we will be hard-pressed to find coaches willing to act so invasively and destructively in the lives of their students.

Finally, why, oh why, are you seeking to saddle Alaska schools with any new sources of liability? Let's neither encourage vigilantism against children nor nuisance litigation against our schools, especially not when Alaska property taxpayers - like myself- would have to foot the bill!

This bill has got it wrong, and in so many ways. Please file it in the wastebasket, and move on to the very real issues affecting Alaskans. If you really want to support girls in sports, leave the kids, the coaches, and the school districts alone.

Sincerely,

Mary Geddes
[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99501j

[REDACTED]

From: Jean Ander [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 10:09 PM
To: Senate Education
Cc: Jean
Subject: Equal treatment for trans students in female sports

Please remember that Alaska has had, over many decades, exactly one trans student, now graduated from high school, who faced this issue. Alaska simply has no actual problem in school sports caused by trans females being unfairly treated or being somehow biologically advantaged over other females by their supposed superior physical strengths. Schools, students, coaches and teachers simply are not experiencing problems caused by this "issue." There is NOT some newly discovered gender-identity crisis in competitive sports in Alaska's high schools. It's not happening. This is a political gambit rather than a real problem. Students play their sports and accept their competitors. Please don't make a problem where one doesn't exist. I urge the Senate Education Committee to remain calm and cool; use your common sense; this non-issue is a political quagmire that wastes your valuable time and the state's resources -- time better spent on providing actual educational and sports opportunities for all students and resources that give all students a chance to compete and learn as they are, where they are, how they are. Students are not troubled by this supposed problem and I hope you'll set aside pointless quarrels over the supposed issue.

Thanks for your consideration.

Jean Anderson
Fairbanks, AK 99712
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Xi Samantha Wong [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 10:23 PM
To: Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Cc: Senate Education
Subject: Opposition to Senate Bill 140

Hello Senators,

First, thank you for your time in reading and listening to the testimonies of the people of Alaska. My name is Sam Wong, I live in Anchorage, and I am one of Senator Roger Hollands' constituents.

I ask you to oppose SB 140 regarding preventing transgender youth from participating in sports.

There are so many reasons why passing SB 140 would be detrimental to our community, including the facts that a) the notion of "sex" as described in the bill is narrow and scientifically inaccurate, b) it would be a massive violation in students' privacy to have their sex and gender policed by teachers, and c) young trans athletes would be deprived of the joys and benefits of participating in sports.

When I recall being on my high school swim team at West High, I remember times of happiness, camaraderie, hard (but rewarding) workouts, and overall, a smashing fun time. Being part of a sports team helped build my confidence and make a cohort of friends who I still am in contact with today, years after my high school graduation. It saddens me to think that a student, just by being trans (which there's absolutely nothing wrong with), would be unable to have this uplifting experience in their life if they so desired it. Additionally, making teachers and coaches police *all* youths' gender and sex is a huge invasion of privacy and violation of their rights. There are so many harms that would come about as a result of SB 140 if it's passed. Letting trans kids be kids and letting them play sports is such a simple yet impactful thing to do.

Please oppose SB 140--for Alaska's youth, for their futures, and for their joy.

Sincerely,
Sam X. Wong
Anchorage (zipcode 99516)
she/her/hers

--

Sam X. Wong
My gender pronouns are: she/her/hers

[REDACTED]

From: Melody Bechberger [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 11:04 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB140 Public Testimony - Melody Bechberger

I will be unable to testify tomorrow publicly as I will be volunteering, but thank you for taking the time to read my correspondence anyway. My name is Melody Bechberger and I am an Anchorage resident, I identify as straight, but I volunteer with youth LGBTQ+ organizations so I have some insight into the impacts bills like this cause on transgender youth.

Title IX protects transfeminine people from discrimination in participating in things like sports. This nondiscrimination promotes equal opportunities and promotes well being. When transgender people are confronted with bills of this nature, about their fundamental rights, it increases feelings of isolation, depression, increases incidents of bullying and incidents of violence against them. This leads to an increase of suicidality in our transgender youth.

Queer athletes used to be shunned from playing sports, professional athletes today still face discrimination and many do not come out publicly. Affirming and including transgender youth in sports promotes teamwork, leadership opportunities, and many valuable life lessons that their peers experience. Trans people have been participating in sports for years (too many had to keep it secret for fear of discrimination) at all age levels. Allowing trans athletes to compete doesn't let boys/men to -pretend- to be transgender just to compete, but to self-affirm who they are.

There are also serious concerns about the wording and 'practical' implementation of SB140. It would raise serious privacy concerns because coaches would have to make a determination about a students "biological sex" that may result in invasive physical exams. This is no different from bathroom and locker room bills all over the nation which have shown to be discriminatory, harmful, and illegal.

Please don't let discrimination of this nature occur in our great state. Let's work together to make sure all our youth athletes can participate in sports to build resiliency, leadership, fitness, and have some fun while doing it. Thank you for your time.

-Melody Bechberger
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99502

Mel Bechberger

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED]
Friday, March 11, 2022 11:11 PM

Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen.

Tom Begich

Opposition to SB 140

Dear Senators,

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I ask that you oppose SB 140. Trans students, who are already at higher risk of bullying, mental health issues and suicide, must be allowed to participate in sports with others of their gender identity. Barring them from sports will undermine their health and safety as well as deprive them of the many benefits that participating in sports provides for our youth.

Please reject SB 140.

Thank you,

Joe Lewis

Metlakatla, Alaska

[REDACTED]

From: Abby O'Brien [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 11:33 PM
To: Senate Education; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: No to SB140 - Protect Alaska's Transgender youth

My name is Abby O'Brien, and I'm a resident of Juneau.

Thank you for allowing me to state my opposition to the harmful bill SB140.

SB 140 is a blatantly discriminatory bill designed to exclude transgender girls and deny them the ability to participate fully in sports and school community. This bill will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Discriminatory bills like SB 140/HB 230* heighten trans students' risk of being bullied and attacked, which increases their risk of mental health issues and suicide.

Denying trans students the opportunity to participate strips them of the many benefits of participating in sports, including better self-esteem, increased sense of belonging, and improved grades.

This bill would violate basic privacy rights by requiring educators and coaches to police whether a student is trans or not, which the school is not legally or ethically authorized to do under medical privacy laws, professionalism standards, and non-discrimination laws.

This bill imposes a narrow and unscientific definition of "sex" that invalidates gender identity – this is contrary to the growing consensus of medical and mental health professionals, not to mention federal law.

There is simply no data to support fairness concerns when trans athletes participate, especially since less than 0.6% of people identify as transgender and not all want to play sports.

These bill targets students of color – who are already routinely policed, shamed, and dehumanized in school settings – and will face outsized consequences, as administrators and other athletes perpetuate racist and sexist stereotypes about femininity and gender presentation.

This bill will lead to the stigmatization and isolation of trans students, undermining their health, safety, and social and emotional development.

There are real issues with gender parity in sports, like unequal funding, resources, and pay. Promoting baseless fears about trans athletes does nothing to address these pressing problems. SB 140 does not solve any real issues, and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans students. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, lawmakers must oppose this bill: let trans students be part of the team.

Thank you for your time.

Abby O'Brien

[REDACTED]

From: Justice McPherson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 1:00 AM
To: Senate Education; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Peter Micciche
Subject: No on SB 140

My name is Justice McPherson. I live in Palmer, and I oppose SB 140.

When I was in school, I wanted to spend time around other girls. I couldn't; instead, I was forced to be in the boys changing room, a terrifying place. The boys seemed to like it, though, reveling in their masculinity.

When I went on estrogen, I very quickly noticed the difference. My jogging time got longer, and I lost the ability to move furniture I used to be able to rearrange. I lost sexual function, shrank, lost muscle mass in spite of exercise, and changed shape to be the woman I always was, something I can't imagine a boy wanting.

Nobody is going to the trouble of transitioning and shredding their athletic performance to win high school sports games. If they are transitioning, it is for social and medical reasons.

How many trans athletes are there in Alaskan schools, anyway? Why now? We aren't new, just because only now are you noticing us.

Please vote no, we don't need to be opening the door to hate.

[REDACTED]

From: Cindy Lelake [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 6:17 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: No on SB 140

Senators:

SB 140 is a harmful, divisive and possibly unconstitutional bill. By mandating that schools classify students on the basis of their gender at birth in order to participate in sports, it violates the right to privacy guaranteed by the Alaska constitution. Further, it targets an already vulnerable population. LGBTQ students are already at risk, suffering higher rates of depression, self-harm, substance abuse disorders and suicide.

For many students, participation in school sports provides the meaning and purpose that belonging to a community offers. SB 140 makes a mockery of that experience.

I respectfully urge you to reject this misguided piece of legislation.

Cindy Lelake
Anchorage

[REDACTED]

From: Sue May [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 8:30 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

Senators:

With regard to the "Anti-transgender" bill under consideration, I respectfully request that this invasive legislation be set aside (at worst) or, better, firmly defeated. The state has no business ascertaining the biological gender of citizens, whether adults or children, particularly for the purposes of discrimination.

Children who identify as transgender undergo daily challenges, including grief that their body features do not match their gender identity. They live with great courage despite their youth. We can support them by helping them achieve in whatever arena they choose, not restricting them.

Respectfully,
Sue Ellen May
Eagle River

[REDACTED]

From: Saralyn Tabachnick [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 8:44 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

I'm writing in opposition to SB 140, a bill which violates basic privacy rights by requiring educators and coaches to track the status of a student's gender, which schools are not legally or ethically authorized to do under medical privacy laws, professional standards, and non-discrimination laws.

This bill imposes a narrow and unscientific definition of "sex" that invalidates gender identity, which is contrary to the growing consensus of medical and mental health professionals as well as federal law.

SB 140 would lead to the stigmatization and isolation of trans students, undermining their health, safety, and social and emotional development. It's a painful bill that brings no positivity to Alaska students, families, schools, or communities.

I urge you to reject SB 140 outright.

Sincerely,
Saralyn Tabachnick, MEd, LPC

--

Saralyn Tabachnick, she/her

All that we are arises with our thoughts.
With our thoughts, we make our world.
~ Buddha

[REDACTED]

From: Meggie aube-trammell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 8:49 AM
To: Senate Education; Sen. Tom Begich; Rep. Christopher Kurka; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Peter Micciche
Subject: SB 140

Dear Senate Education Committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to Senate Bill 140. Senator Hughes is playing this bill off as one for equal rights for women. I am a feminist and that is not what this is about. This is about discrimination and hate towards trans gender people. Why is the government even trying to regulate school sports? This seems like such government over reach to me. I haven't even witnessed this being an issue in our state. Senator Hughes is trying to roil up her base and create a problem where there is not one. Please put an end to this bill and the hate that encompasses it. Thank you,

Meggie Aube
Palmer, AK resident

[REDACTED]

From: Jennifer Dillon [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 8:50 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB140

My name is Jennifer Dillon. I reside at 2577 Douglas Highway #4, Juneau, Alaska 99801.

I would like to enter the following as my testimony:

This bill is simply hateful and dangerous. And if you did not want your bill to be called hateful, then you should not have had Idaho's Representative Ehardt speak on its behalf on Thursday.

She has openly said her own legislation was guided and partially drafted by the Alliance Defending Freedom - a religious fanatic group that works to demonize and erase the rights of not just trans, but all LGBTQ Americans. They are a hate group now using children as pawns in their backwards crusade, spreading these bills across the country. I expect Alaska legislators to do better than copy off the neighborhood bully.

Any genuine concerns about biological differences in segregated sports should be discussed more thoughtfully and rigorously. Humans are complicated and studies show that our ranges of strength and physical dexterity overlap more than we think - particularly before puberty and full development.

If we really want to encourage and lift girls in sports this type of regressive bill is not the way. All it does is reinforce the antiquated notion that "boys" are always better at sports than "girls."

Our children - all of them - deserve more from us.

[REDACTED]

From: Cassie Ostrandér [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 8:52 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: I oppose SB 140

To the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Cassie Ostrander and I am a resident in Anchorage, specifically the Sand Lake/West Anchorage area. I believe I am represented by Mia Costello. I strongly oppose SB 140 for many, many reasons. This bill disgusts me to my core. We do not need to further exclude, embarrass, and harass LGBTQ+ people from society. This bill is not representative of Alaskan values, it's part of a nationwide wave of legislation from Religious people who want to push their "values" on people who aren't part of their religion.

I worry for all the kids who aren't transgendered but will still be subject to invasive physical examinations due to concerns about "biological sex." As a woman who participated in sports for most of her life, I do not worry about transgendered women beating me in a swim race, or on foot. I worry about transgendered women being beaten, killed, or otherwise harmed by bigots. This bill will lead to further harm to the transgendered community. It will also lead to further stigma and bullying of women and girls who aren't traditionally feminine, regardless of their sexuality and gender.

Women and girls in school sports are already subject to gender parity. There are very real differences in equity in funding and other resources, like court time/ice time. Promoting these fears about a vulnerable population of transgendered athletes is taking away energy that could be spent on achieving equity in women's sports, not on inhumane genital checks.

For these reasons and others, like common decency, I oppose SB 140 and urge all members of this committee to vote against this bill.

Thank you,

Cassie Ostrander
She/Her

[REDACTED]

From: Heather LaVerne [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 8:59 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Opposition to SB140

March 11, 2022

Senate Education Committee
Senator Roger Holland, Chair
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
Senate.Education@akleg.gov

RE: Opposition to SB140

Dear Hon. Roger Holland, Chair, and Committee Members:

My name is Heather Dalberg and I reside in district 33-Downtown.

I am voicing my opposition to SB140 in pursuance of protecting rights to privacy and health. Transgender youth should be treated with dignity and respect and this bill is blatantly discriminatory.

The arguments in support of this bill propose that cisgender women are inferior in competitive sports against transgender women and will suffer the loss of prize scholarships and awards. First, this expresses sexism toward cisgender women and implies that the hard work they put in for their respective sport will not be enough to beat a transgender woman. This is untrue and an ugly suggestion. Second, the benefits to participating in sports far exceed the monetary gains. A team is made up of diverse people and to exclude teaches hatred. Gender policing is bad for everyone. Youth athletes should be able to participate in sports activities as their true selves. Transgender athletes deserve the same opportunities and should feel comfortable in the sports they love.

Sincerely,

Heather Dalberg

Juneau, AK

[REDACTED]

From: barton maize [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 9:13 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Opposed to SB 140

Alaska Senate Education Committee Chair Holland and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB140. I am Mr. Barton Maize, a Fairbanks resident since 1976, testifying on my own behalf.

The purpose of this bill is patently to disallow transgender youth, particularly young women and girls, from participation in team sports. This bill would effectively end trans kids' participation in team sports and is, therefore, highly discriminatory against this already marginalized and traumatized population. I would respectfully ask each member of this committee to answer the questions "What purpose is served by enacting this legislation?" "What problem is being resolved?" I see no benefit, only harm to a vulnerable group of kids.

I would further ask you to consider the real world ramifications of enacting this law. Who will be the gatekeepers to assure compliance with this mean and ill considered law? Who will be the genitalia inspectors to affirm acquiescence when you vote to pass this legislation? This is an unimaginable situation in what I believe to be a still free society.

Five years ago, I volunteered and trained to become a CASA, a Court Appointed Special Advocate working with and advocating for kids caught up in the child welfare system. While I have not to date worked with any transgender kids, I have been exposed to kids who have been damaged greatly, largely by the adults in their lives who were supposed to love them and care for them. I urge you to consider the harm and destructive impact this law could have. These kids have had a hard enough path as is to figure out what is true for them and who they are. Do not deny them the privilege accorded all other kids to join a team, compete and excel.

Respectfully,
Barton Maize
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks AK 99712

Sent from Mail for Windows

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 9:22 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

Dear Alaska Senators:

I write to you asking you all to oppose SB 140. This is a blatantly discriminatory bill designed to exclude transgender girls from fully participating in sports and school activities. Being a trans teen is a difficult and complex time for these kids, and putting legal obstacles in front of them only exacerbates their difficulties.

Please be a support to Alaska's trans teens and not a force of discrimination and further pain to them; please vote down this "solution in search of a problem".

Thank you all,
Sheri Whitethorn, RN
Anchorage

[REDACTED]

From: Savannah Lewis [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 9:47 AM
To: Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: I oppose SB 140

This bill is a deep and wounding violation of the privacy rights of ALL Alaskan children. Further, it fosters a pedophilic fascination on the part of adults with the genitals of ALL Alaskan children. This bill has no place in our educational system or the lives of the Alaskan children who expect us to keep them safe.

Savannah Lewis
Anchorage resident and voter

[REDACTED]

From: Karen (Hirst) Spaleta [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 9:56 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: in opposition to SB140

My name is Karen Spaleta.

I live at 1051 Gilmore Trail, Fairbanks, AK 99712, district 4B.

I am opposed to SB140.

This is a bill that is about promulgating hate and discrimination dressed up in the red herring of protecting "fairness" in women's sports. Winning, despite our societal fixation on gold medals, is actually a very minor part of participation in sports. Participation in sports can teach athletes mental discipline, focus, hard work, and teamwork, as well as promote habits contributing to lifelong physical and mental health. These benefits should be available to all children and adults, irrespective of their gender identity. The idea that a mediocre male athlete would choose to become transwoman for the sole reason of becoming a state athletic champion is laughable.

Additionally, this bill promotes a narrow concept of "sex" that is inconsistent with scientific and medical consensus and federal law. It will violate the privacy rights of students by putting the onus on school staff to determine if a student is trans, which school staff have no legal right to do.

Equity issues do exist for women in sports, but they are better solved by providing additional resources, rather than promoting active discrimination and misconceptions against a vulnerable population.

Again, I am opposed to SB140.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Karen J Spaleta

[REDACTED]

From: Tory Rhoads [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 9:57 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

Hello,

I'm writing to express my opposition to SB 140. It is a needless, hurtful, and bigoted proposal that will negatively impact the health and welfare of our children.

In addition to opposing this bill due to the harm that it would cause, I also oppose it based on its inaccuracies. One such flaw is the premise behind the provided definition of biological sex is highly inaccurate.

This bill would also violate the privacy of all school children. As Alaskans, one of the few things that unite us is our passion for autonomy and privacy.

I vehemently urge lawmakers to oppose this bill.

Thank you for your attention.

Regards,

Robin Rhoads
Juneau, AK 99801

[REDACTED]

From: Grace Freeman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 9:55 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Testimony on SB 140

Hello,

I will be unable to participate in the public testimony for SB 140 today (March 12, 2022), but would like to send my testimony in opposition via email.

My name is Grace Freeman and I am from Ketchikan. I oppose SB 140 because it would limit trans, non-binary, and intersex youth from participating in school sports and could cause harm to all student athletes. While the bill uses the term "biological sex" it does not define what the biological basis for determining the sex of a student athlete would be. The physical characteristics of gender and sex are a complex expression of genetics and hormones that affect internal genitalia, external genitalia, and other physical characteristics. Designating student athletes by their physical sexual characteristics would deny access to sports to trans, non-binary, and intersex youth. These groups already have an increased risk of mental health issues and suicide because of the way they're treated based on their gender expression. Sports may be one of the few places they feel like they belong. This bill would also make it possible for any student athlete to be accused and investigated for not adhering to gender norms. For example, a student who was assigned female at birth and identifies as female could be investigated if someone accused her of being too masculine. A boy could have his physical characteristics scrutinized for being too feminine. Subjecting any students to investigation of their biological sex would be humiliating and harmful. They're just kids who want to play sports. Please do not support this bill that solves no existing problems, and could cause students harm. Thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]

From: Helenmarie Matesi [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 10:02 PM
To: Sen. Shelley Hughes
Subject: sb140

Dear Senator Hughes,

My name is Helenmarie Matesi. I live in Fairbanks and am testifying on behalf of myself. I am writing this letter of lieu of being able to testify due to technical difficulties with the telephone system earlier today.

I am writing in opposition to SB 140. I do not support this bill. It does not support transgender children, and we need to support and lift up all of our children. This bill suggests a kind of segregation. Segregation has never led to equity and well being here. What is not as obvious is that in addition to hurting the transgender population the rest of the kids are hurt as well. Sports foster relationships, it provides opportunities for kids get to know and understand each other better. Knowledge eliminates fear.

This bill promotes exclusion denying many benefits to all the children that will be affected by it, transgender and straight. Let's write and support bills that promote activities which help us get to know and respect each other, not divide and cause discomfort.

Helenmarie Matesi

Sent with ProtonMail secure email.

[REDACTED]

From: Marilyn Carpenter [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 10:13 AM
To: Senate Education
Cc: lauracarpenterak@gmail.com; 'Kenna Bates'; clint@carpenterprogramming.com; 'Carey Carpenter'; 'Andy Bartel'
Subject: In opposition to Senate Bill 140

Dear Senators,

If you care about children and families, then please vote "NO" against Senate bill 140.

As a mother and grandmother, I want all my offspring to be treated with respect, as I have taught them to treat others. I want my grandchildren to be free to be wholly themselves, to have the "liberty and justice for all" declared in the Pledge of Allegiance. I want my children, and ALL children to be able to participate in healthy activities, without some authority telling them that they're not "enough" of one gender.

Senate bill 140 discriminates in many ways: it wants to check the gender of female athletes, but not of male; it makes its own decisions about what gender a person is, discounting the person's own being; it determines which sports some children may play, while others may not; it seeks to marginalize and penalize trans people, who already have many challenges in our society. Why should we create more pain, when this bill is totally unnecessary.

Thank you for caring about children and families. Vote "NO" on Senate bill 140.

Sincerely,
Marilyn J. Carpenter
Anchorage, AK

From: Michael Szidloski [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 10:15 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Opposition to SB140

Good morning

I have already made my concerns known to the chair and vice chair of the committee regarding SB140. As a resident of Alaska, it's always frustrating to watch our legislature copy bad bills from other states, especially after said bills have been shown to create a negative impact on the state. SB140 is one of those bills. An almost identical bill was passed in Florida last year, and the outcome was that cis athletes started having to prove they weren't trans when they won. This bill, regardless of the morality of the issue, is a waste of the state's time and money. For that alone it should be dropped from the legislative session. It is a bill in search of a problem, and regardless of what Senator Hughes says, it *is* transphobic.

It would be more important for this committee to focus on the real issues regarding education in Alaska: a lack of funding, the worst teacher retention in the US, struggles hiring and retaining educators, and a focus on providing consistent and concise remote education when necessary. Instead, the committee is focused on throwing good money after bad trying to prop up this copycat bill that will only waste more money in the state, in addition to alienating our fellow Alaskans and attempting to turn more of us against each other.

I urge the committee to vote against SB140, to stop wasting the state and people of Alaska's time and money, and to focus on the more pertinent issues that face our state.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Szidloski
Resident of Fairbanks, Alaska

--

One day posterity will remember, this strange era, these strange times, when ordinary common honesty was called courage. -- Yevgeny Yevtushenko



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[REDACTED]

From: Robin Beebee [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 10:20 AM
To: Senate Education; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: SB 140, A bill to isolate and bully trans children

Dear Senate Education Committee,

I am writing to vehemently oppose SB 140, a bill which invades children's privacy and singles out and denies certain children the opportunity to engage in school sports. I am a lifelong Anchorage resident, the mother of a girl who participates in sports, and a former ASD runner, basketball player, and cross-country skier.

First, this bill represents a disgusting invasion of student's privacy. For my entire school athletic career, not a single adult asked me about my genitals. If they had, directly or indirectly, I would have been sick with disgust. This bill would REQUIRE an adult to question a student's gender, especially a girl who, like me, is perhaps not as frilly, is more muscular, has smaller breasts, or otherwise does not outwardly appear "feminine enough". Ask yourself, how would you have felt as a child if a coach had put such a question to you? How would you feel if your child came home to tell you that the coach asked if she was "really a girl", and that you needed to provide some documentation of what your child's genitals looked like at birth? How would you feel if another school sports team sued to find out what your child's genitals looked like as is authorized under the liability section of this bill? IT IS NO ONE ELSE'S BUSINESS WHAT OUR KIDS LOOK LIKE BETWEEN THEIR LEGS. Period.

Second, this invasion of privacy is addressing a problem that DOES NOT EXIST. A tiny percentage of students identify as transgender in the first place, and not all of them participate in sports. Contrary to the hysteria and fear-mongering about "male bodies" dominating girls sports, this simply does not happen. Some children are born with great athletic gifts and some are not, and if a handful of gifted athletes identify as trans in the country that hardly counts as dominating. Despite not having this bill in place, I have not heard of a single winning school sports team in Alaska being composed largely of transgender students, nor even of a single transgender student in Alaska dominating their sport. If a trans girl beats my daughter in a race it's not going to seem any more unfair than if the daughter of an Olympic athlete or anyone else beats her.

There are far more serious problems with our transgender children that DO EXIST. Bullying and social isolation contribute to anxiety and suicidal ideation. Bills such as this contribute directly to social isolation. Don't deny some of our most vulnerable students the opportunities that school sports provide, don't ask adults to question children's gender. It will hurt not just trans kids, but any girl in sports who doesn't seem feminine enough.

Thanks for the opportunity to testify,
Robin Beebee

[REDACTED]

From: Jacelyn Keys [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 10:25 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

My name is Jacelyn Keys.
I am a resident of Kodiak, Alaska.
I opposed SB 140

For a state that claims a desire to protect children and families SB 140 is detrimental, inhumane legislation. While this bill professes to protect the rights of kids in sports, it fails to acknowledge research that finds trans-inclusive policies *do not* harm cisgender children. In fact, participation in youth sports in states with gender inclusive policies is higher than in states with exclusionary policies. While cisgender children will not be negatively impacted by the inclusion of transgender children in sports, trans children will be harmed by this bill. Not only does this deprive them of gender-affirming sports experiences, it strips them of benefits kids receive from participation in sports: lowered risk of anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation and attempts. While an alarming 16% of kids reported considering suicide in 2019, in that same time frame an appalling 44% of trans kids reported considering suicide. In 2015, 77% of trans adults who were out in grades K-12 reported negative experiences at school including verbal and physical abuse and sexual and physical assault. I would like to think my state legislature would not pass laws that so deeply dehumanizes and discriminates against trans children that they become one of these statistics. Make no mistake, that is what this bill will do.

Multiple states in recent years have introduced transgender sports bans - focusing, it should be noted, on trans women competing in sports significantly less so than trans men. Alaska's bill seeks to follow that pattern. The one in Idaho has since been enjoined because there was a lack of any empirical evidence justifying the law. The only case with which I am familiar in Alaska was in 2016. Reports indicated the trans woman came in third to cisgender women. What problem is it that this legislation seeks to solve? It is obviously not that trans women have unfair advantages on the sports field. Is it a safety concern? I easily found statistics that said Alaska had the highest rape rate in the US in 2020 - 154.8 rapes per 100,000 inhabitants. There is no data that indicates *any* of those rapes were perpetrated by a trans woman on a cisgender woman. As a cisgender woman, I am statistically in more danger from the cisgender men in Alaska than I am from a trans woman. Again, I ask, what problem is this legislation seeking to solve? I see no solutions from this legislation - I do see life-altering danger for trans children.

Lack of acceptance and affirmation increases mental health risks and suicide for our trans youth. Please, affirm all our children as valid and valuable and wonderful - just as they are, for all that they are.

J.

Fact Sheet: The Importance of Sports Participation for Transgender Youth

Hananel Director et al.
<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/fact-sheet-importance-sports-participation-transgender-youth/>

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"Beginnings are always difficult, endings are usually sad, but it's the middle that counts the most. You just have to give hope a chance to float up."

[REDACTED]

From: Kristin Worman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 10:25 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Opposition of SB 140

I am an Anchorage resident, I have voted at every single opportunity do so, and will be sure to continue to speak through my vote.

I am writing to express my opposition to SB 140. This bill will hurt people, and is in direct opposition to the Alaskan principle of live and let live. This bill is unconscionable, and I will remember how the legislature votes on this when it comes time to cast my own ballot.

Do not be the ones responsible for a step backwards for Alaska.

Thank you,
Kristin Worman
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99508
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: H. E. (NoMirth) [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 10:26 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: regarding SB 140

Dear representatives-

I was born in Alaska and this has been my home for over 37 years. I attended school here in Juneau and participated in a few sports. Never once did it matter what gender my teammates or opponents were, because we were kids enjoying the sport. Some of my female friends even played football with the boys team (since there was no female team), in fact the team enjoyed the challenge and community it created, and never did it occur to any of us that we should worry about it restricting one of the members from a scholarship or college acceptance because that is not what sportsmanship is about.

SB 140 is a solution looking for a problem that doesn't exist, and is a blatant attack on trans kids (particularly singling out one side seeing as how this is only geared at "protecting" girls sports). The suggestion that Alaskan women can't handle the challenge is also just insulting. Maybe you haven't noticed this about Alaskan girls/women but we are some of the toughest females you will meet. We sling fish, hunt to feed our family, harvest firewood and we do not fear that male genetics will somehow be too tough of an opponent to compete against in sports. In fact we enjoy the challenge!

As someone who pays a significant amount of property taxes, votes every election and who's step-kid is a highschool senior, I hope you will respect me and my fellow locals when we say that SB 140 is an absolute travesty that should not even be wasting time and taxpayer money being considered. I do not support it or any other bills that seek to discriminate against people because of their gender.

sincerely your constituent,
-Honalee Elkan

[REDACTED]

From: Susan Halvor [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 10:26 AM
To: Senate Education; Susan Halvor
Subject: Opposition to SB 140

I am Rev. Susan Halvor, an ordained Lutheran pastor and chaplain. I live in Anchorage, zip code 99517.

I am opposed to SB 140.

As a chaplain and pastor, I am blessed to have many incredible and gifted trans friends and colleagues, who are doing so much to make this world a better and safer place with more healing and hope. I have many friends who are parents to trans children.

As a pastor, it is my vocation and calling to speak out on behalf of those who are most vulnerable. I believe that we all are created in God's image, and that God has always worked in creative and unexpected ways, visible throughout creation continuing to do new things. Through scripture, we also see a clear Divine concern for those who are most vulnerable -- widows, orphans, strangers, those who suffer or weep.

SB 140 harms young people who are vulnerable, trans young people who are already at higher risk for suicide, bullying and abuse. These are young people with tremendous capacity for bringing so much light, love and hope to the world.

SB 140 adds to the stigmatization and isolation of trans students. It undermines their health and safety. We know that participation in sports can bring so many benefits -- friendship, a sense of belonging, accomplishment, discipline, endurance. To deny this to trans students is wrong.

Science and research is showing us that there is no clear, definitive advantage in sports based on gender; additionally, there are many factors which bring advantages in competition -- access to regular healthy meals, access to coaching and training, strong financial resources -- these are not available to every child. Let's put our energies into creating a world where each child is loved, supported and has access to all that is needed for a healthy life and hopeful future.

Please join me in opposing SB 140. It is a violation of students' privacy, and is discriminatory.

Thank you.
Rev. Susan Halvor
Anchorage, Alaska

--
"Love recognizes no barriers.
It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls
to arrive at its destination full of hope."
-- Maya Angelou

Dena'inaq elnen'aq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu.

I live and work on the land of the Dena'ina.

Translation: S. Shaginoff-Stuart, J. Isak

[REDACTED]

From: C.Pegau [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 10:28 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140--OPPOSED

Dear Senate Education Committee;

I am staunchly opposed to SB 140.
It is unfair and othering of transgender youth in a time of their lives when participation and acceptance are crucial to their health.

Transwomen and girls are women and girls.
Transmen and boys are men and boys.

Let Alaska's youth play. Period.

Thank you.

Cathy Pegau
Cordova

[REDACTED]

From: Carrie Nash [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 10:34 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

To the committee:

I oppose this bill. It is unnecessary. It will do much more harm than good. All of the supposed experts you brought to testify earlier in the week were from out of state and are part of a national campaign that has nothing to do with reality in high school sports and nothing to do with Alaska. The intent of this bill is to cause harm to young Alaskans and you must join me in opposition no matter your personal feelings about people with gender identities you do not understand or like. Human beings under 18 will be harmed by the statement you are trying to make with this bill. Peeking in peoples's pants to see if they can do sports is ridiculous. It would be even more stupid if you wanted to do it for participation in drama club if boys want to play a girl's part, or in other non-sport areas. Why sports are singled out is beyond me. Nothing about sports is fair anyway. Each human is made differently and has inherent advantages and disadvantages. DO NOT PASS SB 140.

Thank you,

--

Carrie Nash
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] cell
[REDACTED]

Fairbanks, AK 99709

[REDACTED]

From: Heidi Herbert-Lovern [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 10:35 AM
To: Senate Education; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Roger Holland
Subject: SB 140 Testimony

Hello, my name is Heidi Herbert-Lovern, I live in Anchorage, and I am representing myself. Thank you all very much for your time. I am testifying to record my strong opposition to SB 140.

This bill targets some of the most vulnerable children in our state and denies them the opportunity to participate in sports, which in turn denies them the benefits of sports, which include improved self esteem, cultural acceptance and safety, and often better grades.

By requiring educators and coaches to determine whether or not a student is trans, this grossly violates the privacy of all children, not just trans kids. We are currently experiencing unprecedented levels of teacher attrition in Alaska, and this would add to the problem: as an educator, if I was required to determine whether or not a child was trans, I would not continue to work in this state.

Children are all wildly different, which is one of the joys of teaching. Some kids are tall, some aren't, some are trans, some aren't. Parents love their children the way they are, and teachers support children the way they are. This bill does nothing to support children. Instead, it further isolates a vulnerable population that is already prone to suicide by cutting them off from social interaction with their peers. Kids want to play sports. Just let them play sports. I strongly oppose this bill. Thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]

From: Lori Siebe [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 10:37 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Vote No on SB 140

Senators Holland, Stevens, Hughes, Micchiche and Begich

Members of the Senate Education committee,

Thank you for your service to the State of Alaska

I am writing to ask you because I oppose SB 140 and am asking you to vote no on this bill.

This bill violates a student's right to privacy. It negatively impacts the right of a student to pursue interests that benefit them emotionally and physically through involvement in school sports or social club activities, no matter what their gender identification. This bill attacks a fragile population in an effort to stigmatize the decisions of young people that should remain private and confidential, not be used to isolate them from their peers.

Please vote no on SB 140 and be a positive part of the country and our state by supporting acceptance of these strong, young individuals who have chosen their path. They have made hard decisions, necessary to put them on the path they feel they are meant to follow. Hard decisions that will shape the future for themselves and their families. Bills such as HB 140 are present only to separate and punish the decisions of these incredibly strong young people, and to encourage discrimination and exclusion from the public.

Vote NO on SB 140

Thank you,

Lori Siebe
Kodiak, AK

[REDACTED]

From: Faded Pebbles [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 10:40 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

My name is Melissa Syphus of Anchorage. I'm calling to state my opposition to SB 140. I believe the aim of this bill is solely to exclude transgender people from participating in sports with peers of their gender. The claims of inherent physical advantages made by proponents of this bill are baseless and rooted in transphobia.

The enactment of this bill will violate trans and gender non-conforming students rights to privacy, and further stigmatize trans teens. If we truly care about trans kids in our community, our laws should support and include them not separate and exclude them from public life.

I ask that you oppose SB 140 and allow trans youth to participate in sports among their peers. Thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 10:42 AM
To: Senate Education; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Gary Stevens;
Senator.Shelly.Hughes@akleg.go; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: SB140

I strongly OPPOSE SB140. While I have no doubt that it is absolutely not intended to ensure trauma to vulnerable youth, anyone who has ever had any experience with bullying knows that trauma is exactly what will happen. I can't even imagine the nitty gritty of how this would be implemented, but it would certainly need to include violation of basic privacy rights. I have not seen nor heard of any data to support the premise of this bill. I believe if the sponsors had accurate information about the process of transitioning they would understand why this bill has no basis in reality.

Pam Karalunas
Karalunas Consulting
Anchorage, AK 99517
[REDACTED] cell



The measure of our society is mirrored in how we treat our children.

[REDACTED]

From: Frankie [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 10:52 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

Hello there! My name is Frankie Dahl. I am a trans educator and community member in Anchorage, AK. I am writing you today to speak out in opposition against SB140.

As educators, our primary focus is the wellbeing of our students. We're taught in our teacher prep programs that for any learning to happen, students need to feel safe, both physically and mentally. Last year, the school district here pushed hard to get back to in person learning, citing an emphasis on the critical state of the mental health of our student population.

Trans youths' mental health has been in a critical state for a VERY long time. We're told from a very young age, subliminally and explicitly, that we're other. That we don't belong. That we shouldn't take up space in places that don't belong to us (which is nearly everywhere). This piece of legislation is just another piece of paper telling us another place where we're not allowed to exist.

Listening in today, it's been amazing hearing all of the people coming to talk in opposition of this bill. It makes me feel seen, supported. I don't often feel that way. Schools are scary, and if I feel that way, imagine how my students feel. There are some guidelines that protect gender expansive students and teachers, but we're not welcome, not really. While trans is a word that still has to be whispered, we'll never be welcome as our true selves. While it's a requirement to not be trans to participate in a school sponsored team, we'll never really be welcome.

While this issue is complex, and the way forward may not be clear yet, exclusion is definitely not the answer.

Don't segregate our sports teams.

[REDACTED]

From: J Zechmann [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 10:54 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: I oppose SB140

Hello and thank you for taking the time to read this.

I would like to express my opposition to SB140, a bill that nobody asked for, designed specifically to punish people for being different. Biology is complicated, and sometimes a baby assigned male at birth will grow up to look, act, and feel like a girl. SB140 would force little girls like this to play on a boys' team, or not at all. This is a violation of privacy and basic human rights.

Thank you,
Jenna Zechmann
Fairbanks, AK 99709

[REDACTED]

From: Julia DeNoto [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 10:56 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: I oppose SB 140. (What is going on with the phones?)

Hello Senators,

My name is Julia DeNoto. I'm from Denali borough in interior Alaska. Representing myself. **I oppose SB 140.**

Last week I heard that this is about fairness. It is fair to let trans kids play sports in the gender they are. Women's sports include trans women. Girls sports include trans girls, because trans girls ARE girls. Last week Senator Hughes said she's fine with trans people but ultimately not when it comes to sports, but trans people can't be cut in half and exist in one place but not in another. If you support trans people you support them everywhere.

These "experts" that were heard from last week are just people full of hate making their circuit around the country. Can someone cite a single instance in Alaska where trans girls participating in sports has caused problems? SB 140 is proposing to solve a problem that doesn't exist and it's putting all children at risk. If this bill is passed, are you going to check every girl? Or go with accusation based testing? This means that all cisgender girls could also be tested if they are accused of being trans. So it's not just trans people that are affected by this. Anybody can be accused of being trans. This not only demonizes and weaponizes transness and trans identity, but it also is misogynistic and polices girls' bodies.

Please. Don't play into the hands of people Outside who wish to use you as their puppet. This is not about sports. We see through it.

Julia DeNoto

From: Leisa Carrick [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 11:03 AM
To: Hughes@akleg.gov; Sen. Shelley Hughes
Subject: Transgender Bill

Dear Senator Hughes,

I am emailing you in regard to the bill that would limit the participation of transgender kids in school sports. I saw a Facebook post, some time ago, in which you had asked for public opinion. My concerns of passing this bill are as follows:

1) The question begs to be asked: Is this really a problem in our schools? I have lived in the Matsu Valley 30+ years and I have known personally two transgender youth. I can tell you that neither one of them wanted to draw attention to their gender issues. Neither one was part of the church I pastor but were part of the community where I got to know them. I am saddened that this subject takes precedence over all the many other subjects that are hurting families and our youth in our community. I am also aware that this seems to be a subject the Republican Party is singling out right now wanting to limit transgender youth from participating in school sports. Several states have pushed through a bill similar to this which is signed into law by their Republican governors. I am flummoxed as why this particular subject gets so much attention when I don't see the urgent need. There are many other important problems facing our youth today and to spend the amount of time spent on this issue, which in my mind seems an imagined concern for our community, is baffling to me.

2) I am always disturbed when a bill comes to the floor which seems to be in the spirit of dividing us as a people. At a time when there is so much pain and grief between people because of the political atmosphere in the last few years, as well as differences magnified by the way people have chosen to navigate the pandemic, why would the legislature spend time on an issue that is one more way of dividing us and putting people into the camps of "us" and "them."

I appeal to you as a Christian that we are in the business of reconciliation and bringing healing to our world, not divisiveness. As women of faith, we need to be reconnecting human beings, binding them to one another, helping one another understand each other's differences whether we agree with them or not. Our faith should improve our sensibilities and help us see how much we need one another to survive and thrive and understand our world. To single out a group of people, like this bill does, is to wound their souls and self-worth. Jesus disrupts the idea of borders and boundaries. He reaches out to the vulnerable, the oppressed. He gives us new cultural rules caring for the stranger, turning them into friends, giving each other extravagant kindnesses.

Have you ever known a transgender youth? Their journey is one of pain and confusion and need for acceptance and understanding. Writing and passing a bill that targets them is devastating to them. What is the lesser evil? Passing a bill to protect young ladies from unfair competition in getting a trophy (which will have little meaning for them once they are out of school) OR reminding the transgender youth, one more time, that they are a freak that society doesn't want around? This bill is a direct attack toward persons who already have been beaten down.

Please, do not pass this bill. Our youth are hurting in this community and there are other things we can do to support and lift them up so that our youth will thrive. One last comment: If a youth doesn't make the team or get the top score, that disappointment will go away. If a youth is discriminated against, making a ruling because of (in my opinion) an imaginary problem, that scar

does not go away. Let us not pass bills that sets people against one another. We have to learn how to get along by loving one another, not casting one another out of our circles.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my concerns.

Sincerely,
Rev. Leisa Carrick

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Rev. Leisa Carrick
Interim Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of the Yukon
Co-Pastor
United Protestant Church
[REDACTED]
Palmer, AK 99645

[REDACTED]

From: Michael Mason [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 11:06 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Testimony SB140

Hello,

My name is Michael Mason. My zip code is 99517. I am a lifelong Alaskan and a business owner who survived growing up gay in a hateful and bigoted city, school district, and state. I had friends who grew up with me commit suicide or get bullied to the point of leaving this place. The people of Alaska took away my right to marry someone I love before I was old enough to vote. A dehumanizing act that explicitly causes harm to vulnerable minority populations.

I am opposed to SB140 because it enshrines anti-trans bigotry into law in a similar way by hitting down at a vulnerable minority population. If you enact this law you are explicitly depriving children of their human rights and you will be the same kind of scum who bullied my friends to death in the 90s.

Please do the right thing.

Vote NO on SB 140.

Thank you,
Michael Mason

[REDACTED]

From: PFLAG Juneau [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 11:06 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Testimony AGAINST SB140

Dear Senators,

My name is Jenny Smith, I am a resident of Juneau, Alaska, and the Co-Chair of PFLAG Juneau, an organization supporting the civil rights of LGBTQ+ people.

I am a graduate of Juneau-Douglas High School, a parent of four children who attended public schools in Alaska from Kindergarten through High School graduation, and a former president of a high school sports booster club. In my experience, fostering a more inclusive, welcoming, atmosphere for all of our school children in our public schools benefits all. When kids feel that they belong, they do better in school. When kids are accepted, they have higher self esteem and they treat others with greater kindness and respect. When kids are taught to respect others in spite of their differences, the entire school community benefits.

In contrast, divisive, punitive, and exclusionary policies, such as this bill represents, send a clear message that the rights of certain individuals don't need to be respected. It plays to fears and biases that push transgender children literally off of the playing field, and prevents their full participation in healthy activities that are shown to increase academic achievement and general physical and mental well being. Such measures encourage bullying and "othering" of children who are already extremely vulnerable to social isolation and are at a much greater risk of harm from both others and themselves. LGBTQ+ children, and transgender children in particular, have a much higher rate of suicide than non-LGBTQ+ children.

This bill is discriminatory. This bill is degrading. This bill is immoral . This bill is unkind.

This bill amounts to systemic bigotry and bullying of some of our most vulnerable children - children who already contend with difficulties and struggles over their differences - and punishes them for simply being themselves.

This bill also flies in the face of Title IX, which is the law of the land, making expensive legal challenges the almost certain outcome should this bill pass and be signed by the governor.

Please do the right thing, and halt the advance of this bill now. Vote no on SB140.

Thank you,

Jenny Smith
Co-Chair
PFLAG Juneau
[REDACTED]

--

PFLAG Juneau
[REDACTED]
Juneau, Alaska 99803

[REDACTED]

From: Nancy Blake [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 11:07 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Opposed to SB140

The session is halfway over, and this proposed legislation is a waste of time and resources, for no benefit other than to create fear, anger, and division over a non-problem, at the expense of a small segment of our population that is already targeted with hate.

Trans youth are at risk by their everyday existence. LGBTQ adolescents and young adults are at greater risk of self-harm, suicidal ideation, homelessness, drug use, and sex-trafficking. These kids make up the most vulnerable of our Alaskan family.

This proposed legislation is beyond ridiculous - it is shameful, cynical, and downright harmful, not to mention insulting. These calls to "protect our girls" from these mythological boys pretending to be girls in order to gain some biological advantage on the high school sports team is a fallacy. Every bit as ridiculous as the previous legislative attempts to conjure fear of the imaginary men who dress as women in order to gain entrance to the women's restrooms around our state for nefarious purposes.

Transgender people EXIST! Gender dysphoria is REAL!

To insinuate that people upend their lives in order to gain advantage in a sports contest is just plain fallacy, yet it seems that we have Alaskan legislators who take their cues from those same Outside groups who seek to sow division and fear for political gain.

This legislation is shameful, and is a waste of our limited time to deal with the many REAL issues that Alaska is facing.

Do your job, and quit playing these stupid, divisive, and harmful games. We are sick and tired of this junk.

In frustration,

Nancy Blake
Wasilla, Alaska

[REDACTED]

From: Hannah Hill [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 11:13 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Opposition to SB140

Hello AK Senate Education Committee,

I am writing today in opposition to SB140. This bill is discriminatory, unscientific, based on untruths/fear-mongering & will harm children if passed.

SB140 does not "solve" anything - it demands that trans kids be bullied & tormented at school; something that already leads to mental health issues among vulnerable populations. This reeks of the 1990's religious screeds about "the gay agenda" that singled out the LGBTQ population to make us targets for hate, violence & worse.

We need you, our respected Legislators, to be problem solvers, not problem makers. Alaska's kids - all of Alaska's kids - should be able to trust their government not to harm them. SB140 is harm.

As a queer, non-binary Alaskan, I've been hurt by legally sanctioned bigotry for most of my life & I am reminded of the Tlingit tale of Kaasteen, where the women of a village sacrifice themselves to stop harm from happening to others. So many Alaskans are standing up to harmful bills like this, telling you our stories, because we do not want any more children harmed. We will do what it takes to stop more children from being traumatized by this glacier of intolerance & bigotry.

Please reject SB140 & do not entertain further works of bigotry on state time. Alaska's children need you to protect them.

Thank you for your time,
-Hannah C. Hill (they/them)
Fairbanks, Alaska

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"Love is an act of will,
both an action & an intention."
-bell hooks

[REDACTED]

From: galaxy questers [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 11:19 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Sb 140 Opposition

Dear Senate Committee Members,

As a parent of two gender diverse young adults residing in Homer, I oppose SB 140.

I am writing you today to encourage you all the have to be resolute in your decision to make the choice of health and safety of our children, above hate and discrimination.

As the adults making policy for the future leaders of this country we must model the appropriate response of continued growth of inclusive legislation.

I have heard several people testify this morning about the statistics of suicide rates and mental health struggles for those in the LGBTQ community so I know you do not need to hear more numbers. However I would like to share my family's experience with these statistics. Both of my gender diverse children have had multiple hospitalizations for suicidal ideation throughout ages of 14-18 years old. The youngest identifies as trans and began refusing to go to school when in middle school they had to dress out for PE. We have dealt with discrimination, bullying from both school staff and students.

These children come from a home with loving supportive family members and yet continue to struggle, so many others do not have those extra supports.

So in closing I'd like to say again please vote to Oppose this discriminatory bill. Anything we can do in policy to help create safe spaces for all people to be accepted and supported is a beautiful legacy to leave for our future generations.

Thank you for your time,
Jerrina Reed-VanWormer

[REDACTED]

From: Aurora A [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 11:30 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Testimony for SB140
Attachments: Testimony for anti-trans bill.docx

Good morning, my name is Aurora Alexander and I'm here to speak as a member of the LGBT community and an ally to trans youth. I'm here today to voice my opposition to SB140. This bill is bigoted, it's immoral, and it will get kids killed. Legislation never exists in a vacuum. It's laying the groundwork for a larger attack on transgender people as a whole. We've seen this exact blueprint happen many times before in other states in this country and abroad like the anti-LGBT legislation in Russia. This bill isn't the first like it that we will see and it's not the last.

The ultimate goal of this bill isn't to protect women and girls, but to attack the most vulnerable among us with the hopes of pushing them out of society. This legislation and bills like it are already getting children killed. The daughter of a friend of mine is a transgender child in Texas. When the latest attacks happened there against trans youth, this child was put under so much stress that she ended up in hospital from a nervous breakdown that lead to self-harm. Stories just like hers are becoming more and more common across this country as this terrorism against transgender people from far right and religious groups ramps up. I've lost friends over the years because of homophobia and transphobia. These people did nothing other than exist in society.

Furthermore, this bill is a sexist assault on women. These sorts of bills paint us as incapable to stand up on our own without the protection of a nanny state. Ultimately bills like this where we create a strict definition of womanhood on principals of biological essentialism serve not to create a level playing field, but rather to define women and womanhood by our presumed frailty.

From: Pat Race [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 11:31 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Oppose SB140

I'm writing in opposition to SB140, your anti-trans sports bill.

Youth sports is about promoting physical fitness, building teamwork, celebrating our strengths and learning things like time management and self-discipline. This bill goes against all of that by promoting exclusion, inviting lawsuits, and telling trans girls in Alaska that they are not girls.

This is a classic case of parents and lawmakers getting in the way of youth sports and innocent play. The discussion in itself is painful. You sound like ancient, out-of-touch sportscasters debating if black basketball players should be allowed to play in the same league as the white folks.

I encourage you to sink this legislation fast and instead spend your valuable time thinking about what you can do to raise up your trans constituents and ensure they feel welcomed and included in their communities and homes.

Thank you,
Pat Race
Juneau

[REDACTED]

From: David Nicolai [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 11:33 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB140 Written Testimony

Greetings Senators and Staff,

My name is David Nicolai and I live in Senator Holland's district in South Anchorage. I oppose SB140 and I would like you to vote against passing the bill out of committee. Do not allow this bill to pass.

Thank you,
David Nicolai

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99516
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Paige Turner [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 11:37 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140

Dear Representatives,

The bill that bans transgender women from playing in women's sports is bogus. To put it simply, it singles out a group of people who don't need, nor deserve, to be singled out. To claim that this atrocious act is going to "protect" women and girls is quite frankly insulting. As a woman having been born and raised in Alaska, I have never once needed to be protected from someone, because I've always done that myself due to the failure of the senate and government. We do not need someone else to fail us. We do not need someone else to fail the human race as we know it. This is very one-sided and has nothing to do over safety, rather than discrimination against a minority group. While I am young, I have never lived anywhere outside of Alaska, and I have never supported anything other than the rights of people here in Alaska. Whether it be Native Alaskan's rights, women's rights, or reproductive rights, I will continue to speak out against hatred. I do not support this bill, and I never will.

[REDACTED]

From: Kay Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 11:58 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Oppose SB 140

Hello committee members. I strongly oppose SB 140. Alaska should not discriminate against transgender girls and women. This bill would violate the rights of these individuals under the Alaska Constitution, including their rights to privacy and equal protection.

As a board member of Alaskans Together for Equality (ATE), a statewide nonprofit that advocates for equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Alaskans, I have become familiar with the many problems your legislation would cause for transgender youth. Please, consider the health and welfare of these vulnerable people.

Open your hearts and minds. Do not make Alaska an unwelcoming place for transgender people.

Do not support this divisive and harmful proposal.

Thanks for your consideration.

Kay Brown
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99508

Kay Brown

[REDACTED] (cell)

[REDACTED]

From: Mary Corcoran [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 12:01 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Public testimony SB 140

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am opposed to SB 140. I do not see that discriminating against a population (especially minors) is a legitimate government function. Human sexuality should be recognized as unique and tolerated as such.

I urge you to oppose this narrow approach to the state's children.

Sincerely,
Mary Corcoran
Delta Junction AK

[REDACTED]

From: Valorraine Dattar [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 12:07 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Opposition to SB140

Dear Committee members,

Thank you for rescheduling public testimony to allow for more constituent input. I think it is vitally important to hear from the community when such divisive bills are proposed.

I would like to take this opportunity to state my vehement opposition to SB140. This bill purports to protect the rights and safety of girls in our public school systems, but trans girls ARE girls. Biological sex has little to do with how one does or does not identify and telling children that they are wrong, other, or in any way not a part of their school community will be unbelievably harmful.

There is an applicable traditional African proverb, "The child who is not embraced by the village will burn it down to feel its warmth." If you advance SB 140, you are providing the kindling with which our society will burn. Making someone feel like an outsider, especially a child will never be the right answer. We advance as a community and a society by including others, not ostracizing them.

Children should be protected regardless of what is or is not in their pants. It is frankly disturbing that our government feels the need to focus so intently on the physical sex of CHILDREN. Anyone who feels the need to confirm a child's physical sex for any reason other than a medical diagnosis or treatment should really reassess their lives, sexuality, and whether they should be allowed around children at all.

Additionally, SB140 unfairly targets trans girls.

I was born premature. I was under average size for other girls my age until well after puberty hit for most other girls, and I hit puberty late by modern standards. I'm still pretty short, and I have asthma as well. These factors were and are utterly out of my control. I would not dream of putting myself on the same athletic level as Serena Williams or Megan Rapino or any other brilliant female athlete. Similarly, a girl born with better lungs than mine, or longer legs does not have an unfair advantage just because their genetics were expressed differently from mine. Another woman's advantages do not make me or my own advantages less significant. Other women's successes do not make me or any other woman lesser. Instead, their successes, and the successes of all women in turn make women collectively more powerful, more important, and even more amazing than we already are. Girls need to learn that they are important for who they are and what they can do, independently of what any other woman or girl can do.

That the human body is capable of so much diversity is a thing to be celebrated, not something to be hushed up or pushed away. Trans women are women, trans girls are girls, trans men are men, and trans boys are boys. And again, we are talking about children. Girls and trans children already have so many barriers to success in their lives. Don't erect another barrier to inclusion and success simply to satisfy a narrow minded definition of what a girl should or shouldn't have in her pants. Please, I beg you, do not advance SB 140 and give children another reason to feel that they aren't absolutely important and loved for who they are.

Valorraine C. Dattar
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Gayle Schuh [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 12:20 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140 opposition

I am opposed to SB 140, the Anti-Trans School Sports bill. Transgender people have enough suffering and discrimination in their lives. This bill bans a healthy outlet for a sports-minded individual. Those of us who are cisgender have trouble fathoming the extent of the pain that we can cause for the transgender population. Let them live productive and active lives.

Gayle Schuh
Eagle River, AK

Sent from Mail for Windows

[REDACTED]

From: Raven Amos [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 12:25 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Voicing my opposition to SB 140

I am a resident of Wasilla and I am writing to express my disgust with this legislative body at even entertaining the idea of this horrible, discriminatory, illegal, grossly-overreaching, and, let's face it, creepy bill aimed at women and girls, SB 140.

You will undoubtedly hear testimony about "support" of this bill and I ask you what are the real intentions of those who claim to be supporting this bill "for the safety of women and children"? If those are your intentions, for our safety, this is not the way. In fact, you put women and girls in more danger through stigma, through "othering", through isolation. As if we didn't have enough to worry about in a place with the highest level of violent crime towards women in the country, and a legislative body that seems ill-equipped to do anything meaningful or helpful about it.

For a body that claims "we don't like government overreach", you are venturing deep into creepy, private, none-of-your-business territory - the right to privacy is enshrined in this State's Constitution, and you ask coaches to violate this, for what reason? If this legislative body is incapable of listening to the overwhelming medical, professional, SCIENTIFIC, and public consensus that these bills are the most damaging to the people they claim to "protect", you will threaten to bankrupt the state with frivolous lawsuits - I'm pretty sure the ACLU is licking it's chops at another opportunity to drag this state and it's reputation through the mud because of the actions of this legislative body.

So I ask again, what are your intentions with this bill? Why are you looking to harm children and bankrupt the state just to score "political points"? And are those "political points" actually worth it...?

Raven Amos

<http://cubelight.graphics>
<http://www.neatoshop.com/artist/Raven-Amos>

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: A M [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 12:39 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Testimony re: SB 140

Dear Senate Education Committee Members,

I am writing to express my opposition for SB 140. After reading the bill, I am truly horrified at the harm it could perpetuate against children if made into law. Trans children already face a difficult road. SB 140 paints trans children and especially trans girls as deviants who are attempting to rob opportunities from cis children. There is no evidence to support this theory. SB 140 is a cruel bill that encourages children and adults to take out their frustrations, fears, and biases on children who are ultimately doing their best to survive in a society that is still arguing about whether they should exist or not. SB 140 is a terrible bill that has no place in a just, compassionate society.

Thank you for your time,

Anna Miller
Kodiak, Ak 99615

Kodiak 99615

[REDACTED]

From: Krysta Daniel [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 12:56 PM
To: Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Roger Holland
Subject: Oppose SB 140

Hello,
I am writing in OPPOSITION TO SB 140, after being on hold without even getting an operator response. I called before 10am and it is now just before 1pm. This is not an accessible government, we as Alaskans deserve better. I am a born and raised Alaskan woman. Trans women are women, this attack on trans women IS an attack on all women. If your feminism isn't intersectional, it isn't feminism.
In the text of this horrid bill it says essentially that if a (presumably Cisgendered student athlete) is deprived of opportunity and they suffer 'direct or indirect harm' they can sue their fellow student athletes. Firstly, suing other students is not in the spirit of sportsmanship, what values are we teaching our youth? But more importantly, it seems to forget that trans student athletes are ALSO your constituents, that you are also obliged to protect.
All this bill is, is depriving student athletes of opportunities and it WILL cause direct harm. Trans athletes deserve all the same rights and protections as everyone else. This bill is transphobic and nothing more. Alaskans are independent, kind people.. Causing direct harm to our trans youth, in step with national anti trans efforts in the lower 48 is not independent, kind, or Alaskan!

Please end this attack on our youth, let kids just be kids in sports! Oppose SB 140.

Thank you,
Krysta Daniel
Anchorage Resident

PS I am still on hold and it is now well over two hours of waiting music without even an operator response. I called before 10am. The line has hung up on me more than once. I'm sure there are people working the phones very hard, and I thank them, but this is ridiculous.

[REDACTED]

From: Kristen Mrozowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 1:25 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB 140 opposition

Hello,

I am writing in opposition of SB 140. I strongly oppose this bill on the basis that it will create barriers to accessing the mental health boosting effects of sports for a population that is already at a higher risk for suicide.

Though I called in to the meeting at 9:55 am on 3/12/2022 and listened to the entire meeting except for the period in which I was booted off and put on hold multiple times, I was not called on to testify. I also attempted to call in on Friday 3/5 before learning the public testimony had been rescheduled.

I strongly oppose SB 140. Please listen to the overwhelming public testimony against it.

Thank you,

Kristen Mrozowski
Anchorage, AK
[REDACTED]

--
Kristen Mrozowski
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Jorden Nigro [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 2:22 PM
To: Senate Education
Cc: Sen. Jesse Kiehl
Subject: Opposition to SB140

Dear Senate Education Committee Members,

I am writing to you today in opposition of SB 140, "An act relating to school athletics, recreation, athletic teams, and sports."

As the education committee, it is your role to consider how proposed laws will impact student's well-being and educational outcomes. This bill not only violates the privacy rights of students, it also aims to alienate students from the vital connections that sports offer and instead it "others" them.

As a woman who grew up in rural Alaska, I am well aware of the opportunities sports provide for youth in our state. Sports allowed me to travel, to make friends in communities outside of my own, and to engage in healthy and fun teamwork with my friends. More than anything, this is what sports is about - connection and fun.

I have also spent over two decades working with youth in various capacities in Juneau and currently run several programs that serve a high percentage of LGBTQ+ youth, many of whom are transgender. There are numerous incredible things about these kids - but to me - one of the most beautiful is their courage in knowing who they are and sharing their whole selves with the world. Many of us will go to our graves without doing that. This bill essentially tells them that their authenticity - that their true selves - aren't welcome. It tells them they are less than. It tells them that their life and feelings and desires are not equally valued as those who are not transgender. What do you suppose this will do to their feeling of safety at school and ultimately their ability to learn in an environment that tells them they are not enough.

As you make your decisions, may the words of Martin Luther King Jr. guide you, "No one is free until we are all free." Please let this bill die in your committee.

Sincerely,

Jorden Nigro
Juneau

--

Speak your truth. Even if your voice shakes.

[REDACTED]

From: Julie Smyth [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 2:22 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Oppose SB 140

Hello Senators.

My name is Julie Smyth and I'm writing in more reasons why you should oppose SB 140 that I was not able to cover in my testimony.

We need a separation of church and state. Many of the people calling in talked about God in their testimonies and used him to justify their bigotry, whether they understand it as bigotry or not. Religion should never be a consideration of government matters and the testimonies today showed that people of the religion that has a majority of people (Christian) were divided as to what they believed their God wanted them to say.

I mentioned how Lia Thomas, the famous Trans swimmer from Penn State, told her story and how being Trans impacted her both before and after coming out. While she was excelling at swimming, being in the closet was harming Lia mentally and impacting her ability to do school and participate in other activities. She came out and had to play on the boys team another year, but didn't feel comfortable enough to play at every meet despite her ability to wear a swimsuit that matched her gender. She chose to try out for the female team to be an aspiration for Trans kids and was targeted by bullies on the team, from team parents, and from people around the country and even world. Her life isn't as glamorous as others make it out to be and no one is rushing to claim being Trans while they are not to follow in her footsteps. Read the article here: <https://www.si.com/college/2022/03/03/lia-thomas-penn-swimmer-transgender-woman-daily-cover>

The reasons given to "protect" girls and women in sports in this bill were the same reasons people used to prevent women from being in the infantry and other important roles in the military. So this bill is actually anti-female as I stated. How sad is it that a student from Alaska had to go to college outside of the state and felt that her chances would be lowered if Trans girls had been allowed to compete against her? When the reality is that anti-Trans rules have actually prevented females who were assigned females at birth from playing sports because their bodies naturally produced too much testosterone. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/01/sports/caster-semenya-loses.html>

The definition of "sex" in this bill is unscientific, narrow, and goes against the federal definition. A bill that seeks to truly take care of all Alaskans would not only allow Trans people to try out for and play in the sports teams of their choices, but would give schools the resources they need to things so that as many students can go as far in education as they want, including college. It would make sure that there were many pathways to become the teachers, doctors, nurses, elder care providers, and other job titles we need filled across our state.

Thank you.

--

Kunaan Julie Smyth
she/her/they/them
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Aurora Roth [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 2:40 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: I oppose SB 140

To the Alaska Senate Education Committee,
Thank you for this opportunity for the public to comment on SB 140. My name is Aurora Roth and I live in Girdwood, AK. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of myself, and I am firmly opposed to SB 140. I grew up participating in Alaska school sports and it was a source of confidence and community for me. The lessons I learned through school sports continue to benefit my adult life. All students deserve these opportunities to challenge themselves, learn new skills, and be part of a team. SB 140 threatens the ability of transgender students, specifically transgender girls who are singled out in this bill, to have this opportunity and be fully accepted and seen by their schools and the state of Alaska for who they are. Transgender girls are girls and transgender boys are boys and they should have the opportunity to compete in a way that validates this fact.

There is fear that transgender girls have an advantage over cisgender girls in athletics. Transgender girls are already competing alongside cisgender girls and there is no epidemic of transgender girls on top of every podium and on every winning team. This argument also ignores that transgender students face marginalization and have the deck stacked against them in so many other ways. Due to the discrimination and bias against them, transgender youth face disproportionate mental health impacts, with a [recent study showing that 82% of transgendered individuals have considered suicide](#) (Austin et al., 2020). Sports should be a place where transgender students, like all students, can find positive impacts to their mental health and a sense of belonging.

Bills like this are not new. This is not a new problem that needs a solution. SB 140 is premised on a false problem born out of fear and discrimination of our transgender neighbors, community members, and students. There are serious problems that our youth face that deserve the attention of the Alaska Senate Education Committee including funding for school sports and mental health services.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony,
Aurora Roth

[REDACTED]
Girdwood, AK 99587

--
Aurora Roth
[REDACTED] (personal)

[REDACTED]

From: Laura M Carpenter [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 4:27 PM
To: Senate Education
Cc: Sen. Bill Wielechowski
Subject: In Opposition to SB 140

Dear Senate Education Committee members,

Thank you for reading my email. I ask you to **oppose Senate Bill 140**, which prevents transgender youth from participating in sports.

I've lived in Alaska for almost 18 years, most of that time in East Anchorage. I'm a parent, spouse and runner. I was a high school and collegiate athlete, earning All-America honors in Track and Field.

This bill violates privacy rights and increases risk of suicide and bullying against LGBTQ+ students.

Sports were a lifesaver for me when I was a student. I gained confidence, friends and leadership skills. Please do not take away sports and activities from students. Please do not block students from participating as their true self. Oppose SB 140.

Respectfully,
Laura

Laura Carpenter
they/them/she/her
Anchorage, AK 99508

I live and work on Dena'ina land.

[REDACTED]

From: Jana Peirce [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 4:50 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB140 - a bill in search of a problem

Dear members of the Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for hearing testimony today on SB140. While I wasn't able to call in, I followed much of the testimony, and was happy to see that about 75% of those you heard from testified against this damaging and unnecessary bill. Here are just a few of the arguments made that are all valid reasons not to pass this bill, which would result in mental and physical harm to Alaska youth:

- Alaska has a strong history of acceptance. This bill violates our culture of respecting personal freedom.
- It is an invasion of privacy and constitutes gender policing.
- It would stigmatize trans and gender non-conforming youth. We already have high rates of suicide in Alaska. There is evidence that litigation like this will result in increased mental health problems and suicidality among LGBT and trans youth.
- It is discriminatory. Everyone deserves to gain the benefits of team sports. Whereas including trans women promotes non-discrimination

Finally, there is no need for this legislation. It would cause direct harm - social, emotional and physical - on a vulnerable population among Alaska youth, while directly benefiting no one.

Jana Peirce
[REDACTED], Fairbanks, AK 99712

[REDACTED]

From: Ann and Dave Mayo-Kiely [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 5:13 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Parent opposed to SB 140 and discrimination of trans students

I am writing as a parent of three public school kids in Anchorage, a tax payer, and voter. One of the things I most value about my community, neighborhood, and schools are the many different role models my kids grow up with, and the wide variety of life experiences and life paths that my kids are exposed in Anchorage. Critically important is support and value for all my kids and their peers. Statistics show that we have a crisis of mental health and suicide amongst teens in Alaska. Transgender teens are have exponentially higher rated of mental health issues and suicide-- all of whihc have significant harmful effects on their peers with wide ripple effects in our community. Proponents of this bill argue that it's purpose is to protect our children. I strongly beileve this bill will cause great harm to our children.

I value public schools because I expect inclusivity and support for all of my neighbors, includeive of all religions and identities. We have other options for families seeking narrower values and strict social rules through private schools and home schooling. Pubic schools are no place for discrimination, and this bill is discriminatory. The actions of adults and schools make a huge impression on our kids and I expect our public schools to support all kids where they are and to become their best selves. Imposing discriminatory and narrow definitions of gender on our kids causes great harm, and I do not support efforts to further narrowly define gender in discriminatory ways that impose other's definitions and restrictive categories on others. And I strongly oppose bills that set people up to discriminate against their peers-- which this bill does in its legal protection against any repercussions for someone who reports a school's violation and removes legal protection and recourse for students or others who have been discriminated against. This bill would only further discrimination and associated devastating mental health problems for an already vulnerable population of students who have disproportionate rates of mental health crises and suicide rates-- I know from experience this is a concern for trans students, as well as their friends, neighbors, families, and peers. It would send huge negative messages far beyond the sports teams affected, validating discrimination, fear, ignorance, and unjust treatment of others who are different. This is not the environment I want for any of my kids or my community. This bill would have deep harmful ripple effects.

I strongly urge you to vote no and stop the progression of any similar actions through our legislature.

Respectfully,

Ann Mayo-Kiely

Jupiter Drive, Anchorage AK 99507

[REDACTED]

From: Jon Frey [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 5:37 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Opposed to SB140

Hello,
I am writing to oppose SB140. This legislation is a small minded and bigoted attempt to alienate an already vulnerable and persecuted group of Alaskans. I am a Registered Nurse with a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Business Administration degree. I manage over 200 Alaskan healthcare providers. I value diversity and inclusion on my teams. I need to recruit new talent to Alaska in order to care for Alaska's sickest residents. In order to make Alaska attractive to outsiders, we need laws that support our economy, all of our people, and our unique diversity. SB140 flies in the face of what Alaska means to me. It is simply a reaction by those who are scared of something that they obviously do not understand. It in no way advances Alaska. It only serves to divide Alaskan's and alienate trans youth. I urge you to vote against SB140.

Thank you,
Jon Frey, RN

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Catherine Ducasse [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 6:59 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: OPPOSE SB 140

Dear Alaska Senate Education Committee Members,

I am writing to OPPOSE SB 140, "The Even Playing Field Act". This proposed legislation is misguided at best and outright bigoted at worst.

As a Registered Nurse with degrees in Biology and Nursing Science and with over 20 years of experience in the healthcare field, I have provided care for many transsexual and intersex individuals. They are often vulnerable to abuse and neglect, in part, due to the type of misinformed mindset that creates bills such as SB 140. If enacted, this legislation would perpetuate myths about sex, gender, orientation and identity; and would further ostracize and stigmatize our trans and intersex youth in Alaska.

Anyone attempting to use biology and genetics to support this legislation, clearly does not understand either of those sciences. Just as gender identity and sexual orientation are non-binary and on a spectrum, "Science keeps showing us that [biological] sex also doesn't fit in a binary, whether it be determined by genitals, chromosomes, hormones, or bones." (Alexandra Kralick, Leakey Foundation grantee, National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow, PhD candidate in Anthropology at University of Pennsylvania.)

Despite its title, this bill is discriminatory and would not create an "even playing field" for Alaska's youth. Please vote NO on SB 140.

Sincerely,

Catherine Ducasse, RN
Anchorage, District M

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 7:57 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Testimony in opposition to SB 140

Senators,

I am D'Arcy Hutchings, a longtime resident of Anchorage (HD 16, SD H), the unceded lands of the Dena'ina people, and I use she/her pronouns. I write in on my own behalf and in **strong opposition** to SB 140. I currently have a son in the Anchorage School District and will have a daughter in public school here in the future. As far as I am aware at this point, both of my children are cisgender, meaning their assigned sex at birth aligns with their gender identity.

In today's oral testimony, many speakers made excellent points about how this bill excludes and harms Alaska's trans kids. **I support and agree with what they said, and I do not want my testimony to diminish what they have said.** Rather I want to build and add on those comments to **also** speak about kids who are **not transgender**. This bill opens women and girls who were assigned female at birth but who naturally have a more stereotypically masculine appearance to be called out for that appearance.

Since this bill's language brings coaches, other kids, and parents into the process of reporting and enforcement, it empowers them to question and seek to confirm the presence of my child's vulva if she doesn't present enough as a "girl" for their tastes. This is humiliating and unacceptable for any girl.

This bill perpetuates sexist stereotypes of what it means to be a girl which negatively impacts ALL of us, women and girls, men and boys, non-binary people, transgender and cisgender people.

I sincerely hope that the desire to protect our transgender children is enough for you to reject advancing this bill that is clearly designed to exclude transgender kids. If it is not, remember that this bill invites a violation of the dignity and right to privacy for **ALL** children and opens **ALL** children up for **discrimination, isolation, bullying, and abuse – not just those who are transgender.**

Again, I oppose SB 140. Thank you for your time.

D'Arcy Hutchings

[REDACTED]

From: Bonnie Bladow [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 9:41 PM
To: Senate Education
Subject: SB140

I strongly oppose SB140 because it attacks transgender students and violates students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers. SB140 also violates nondiscrimination protections such as Title IX, which protects transfeminine people's participation in sport, advance all women's – including women and girls who are transgender – equality and well-being.

When transpeople are exposed to public debate about their rights and their humanity, it increases feelings of isolation and depression. It also increases incidents of bullying and violence directed toward transpeople, which in turn increases mental wellness needs and experiences of suicidality. Any practice or process which violates basic privacy rights undermines wellness for young people.

Affirming and including transgender people promotes values of inclusivity and builds opportunities for teamwork, overcoming adversity, and leadership opportunities, all qualities that can be advanced by equal participation in activities with their peers.

We know that the primary interventions for resiliency and supported mental wellness are built in healthy, safe relationships and community building activities. We must remain focused on the safety and well-being of young people, as well as their continued development and growth, by supporting affirming environments and encouraging participation in activities which build better self-esteem, increased sense of belonging, and improved outcomes both socially and academically.

Bonnie M Bladow
[REDACTED]
Anchorage AK 99502

From: Liz Mering [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2022 11:23 AM
To: Sen. Gary Stevens; Senate Education; Sen. Roger Holland
Subject: Opposition to SB140

Good Morning

My name is Elisabeth Mering & I'm writing from Homer, AK where I live and work.

I appreciated the time yesterday for the public hearing. Unfortunately when it went past 1, I was not able to stay on the line any longer so wanted to submit my comments here. I appreciate the chair and the staff's work through the technical issues in order to ensure that there is public comment on this important issue.

I oppose SB140.

This bill would violate the privacy of all our children and youth in Alaska. I think everyone who has completed school can understand that school can be hard. And we know that bullying and suicide for our transgender youth is already a really serious problem for our youth both in Alaska and across the country.

This bill looks to address an issue that is not a problem. There is no evidence that there are fairness problems from allowing transgender students to enjoy the same experiences in school sports that all other students already have.

The idea that my youth playing girls sports would have been lessened playing with transgender girls is simply wrong. I regularly played with biologically female (or possibly transgender girls and never knew - which is how it should be) girls who were better than me and no one stepped to make sure their biological or physical or mental advantages were taken away, no I learned important lessons about being on a team, and winning and losing gracefully and honestly sometimes my team had so much more fun when we were not winning (some of my favorite seasons were losing seasons but I have great memories). And transgender girls (like all girls AND all kids), some are going to be great at sports and some are going to not be great at sports. This narrative that someone is disadvantaged by allowing all girls to play sports is simply inaccurate.

This bill would violate basic privacy rights for our youth requiring our educators and coaches to police whether a youth is transgender.

Please protect our youth and do not pass SB 140. There was so much incredible testimony on the harm that this bill would cause for Alaskan youth, please listen to all the people who gave such heartfelt testimony on the risk and harm this poses to Alaska's transgender youth.

Thank you for your time.

Elisabeth (Liz) Mering
Homer, Alaska 99603

From: Cal Provo [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2022 9:38 PM
To: Senate Education; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: SB 140

My name is Cal Provo, I live in Palmer AK and I am against the passing of SB 140.

Transgender children and adults deserve the same respect and opportunities as cisgender children and adults. Women do not belong on men's sports teams, just as men do not belong on women's sports teams. That includes both transgender and cisgender people.

Would you let a cisgender woman play on a men's sports team? No, because women don't belong in men's sports. So why is it different for transgender women? Simply because there's a chance they could be stronger? Are we going to single out cisgender women who are stronger than other cisgender women and say it's unfair for them to steal opportunities away because of their strength and skill?

Not every person who is assigned female at birth has the same strength aptitude as other people assigned female at birth. This is equally as true for people assigned male at birth. Not only is this bill blatantly exclusionary and transphobic, it's also misogynistic to inherently assume that every person assigned male at birth, transgender or not, is going to be stronger than people who are assigned female at birth. Additionally, it's willful ignorance to imply that sports are all about a person's natural aptitude for strength, conveniently without acknowledging the skill, practice, commitment, mental fortitude, quick thinking, and teamwork that goes into playing sports.

This bill actively endangers transgender athletes by forcing them to compete with members of their gender assigned at birth. Would you expect a cisgender woman to be treated with respect and dignity in a men's locker room? Why do you think a transgender person is going to be treated any better? Can you, in good conscience, say that you truly think transgender people are not going to be singled out, discriminated against, and abused if this bill passes? Or are we not considering that, because this bill is solely about keeping transgender people out of the public eye for the comfort of transphobic people?

Senator Shelley Hughes has provided no local examples of cisgender women on sports teams being excluded or singled out due to a lack of space on the team as a result of a transgender woman being a team member. She has provided examples only of non-local national and international athletes statistics, not even in competition with each other. This bill is entirely based on presumptions and conjecture, and has only made it this far because transphobic people are desperate to keep as much opportunity and success away from transgender people as possible.

This bill is presented as worry and love for cisgender women, but anyone who actually cares to look beyond Senator Shelley's carefully strung words can see that it is solely about distaste and fear of transgender women. This bill is not about lifting cisgender women up, its intent is to kick transgender women down. If we were truly concerned about the opportunities for our female athletes, we would instead put our energy towards keeping them safe, properly geared and trained, and do our best to help them succeed individually, not at the detriment of other people.

I hope you consider my words carefully and not dismiss them if they do not adhere to your own beliefs about transgender people.

Feel free to reach out to this email address if you have any questions or concerns about the points I have made here.
Thank you for your time.

With respect,
Cal Provo

[REDACTED]

From: Patrick O'Connor [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 10:52 AM
To: Senate Education
Subject: Opposition to SB 140

Dear Chair Holland, Vice Chair Stevens, and members of the Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to send in testimony. My name is Patrick O'Connor and I live here in snowy Juneau.

I'm emailing today in opposition to SB 140. This bill is discriminatory and alienates trans youth from their peers.

There is a large body of evidence that adolescent participation in sports results in positive outcomes like better grades and improved self-esteem. This bill would effectively prevent trans kids from participating in school sports.

A 2020 survey from the Trevor Project found that more than half of trans and non-binary youth had seriously considered suicide in the last year.

According to the CDC, transgender students in states with fully inclusive athletic policies were 14 percentage points less likely to have considered suicide in the past year than students in states with no guidance.

A survey from the Trevor Project last fall found that 85% of LGBTQ+ students reported that debates on anti-trans bills have negatively affected their mental health. This debate itself is harmful to our students.

Sports are critical to keeping our kids engaged in their education. Every child should have access to these benefits. I know you're all on the same team as students. Let trans students stay on their teams. Thank you.

- Pat

[REDACTED]

From: Dersu Seater [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 11:03 PM
To: Sen. Shelley Hughes
Subject: SENATE BILL NO. 140

It has come to my attention that there is a bill debating the participation of individuals assigned male at birth who identify as female in school-sponsored athletic teams and sports. While I can understand the concern regarding a potential competitive advantage, such a prohibition is highly unnecessary. The bill is entirely unconstitutional, as one is compelled by law to avoid discrimination on the basis of sex or gender at all costs. Furthermore, school sports should be sustained by moral pillars like camaraderie, sportsmanship, and fun- Not bigotry and exclusion.

As a trans kid myself, I can vouch that all anyone wants is the freedom to be themselves without facing consequential oppression. The passage of this bill would effectively 'out' trans girls with an interest in athletic participation, which could trigger inordinately detrimental social, mental, and emotional effects. Moreover, fear of said impacts might simply discourage transgender youths from athletic participation whatsoever. In short, the bill's progression will inevitably cause more damage than it's worth, and given your government position; you are responsible for preventing that. I can only hope you will consider the general appeal that is to maintain a safe and friendly environment within Alaska's school sports departments.

Respectfully, Dersu Lee Seater

[REDACTED]

From: James Bienvenu [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 11:10 AM
To: Senate Education; Sen. Shelley Hughes
Subject: SB140 is vile, disgusting, paranoid trash. Shred it.

James B
99507 resident

Kids have a hard enough time today getting through middle school without being picked on, bullied, and treated like outsiders. The idea that a state or local government would make a law to make *specifically* tweens/teens feel like they're wrong for feeling the way they feel is disgusting.

Anyone supporting this ban on trans kids playing sports should be ashamed of themselves. I've been coaching kids sports for 10 years now. The most important thing every year, every season, every kid was that they had fun and they grew as an athlete and competitor. Everything else is second.

This bill will not only give license for kids to pick on those that are different, it gives license to all the parents on the sideline who will be pointing and murmuring at CHILDREN!

Anyone that wants a child to be excluded from something they love while they're not hurting anyone at all, just so Melody's parents can collect another trophy is human trash. People that discriminate against CHILDREN should be treated the same way they wish the trans kids would be treated.

As an American, and as a Marine, I've always thought our birthright and obligation as such was to stand up for those who couldn't stand up for themselves. Shame on any adult who treats kids like this. Shame on anyone who picks on someone that can't defend themselves.

[REDACTED]

From: Maureen Longworth [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 12:48 PM
To: Senate Education
Cc: Lin Davis
Subject: NO on SB 140

This email I sent last week bounced back. Here it is again.

As a physician and lifetime member of the American Academy of Family Physicians and an Alaska physician of 30 years I direct you to the evidence based recommendations of the American Medical Association. Citing how discrimination and feelings of inequality contribute to the increased mental health upset, drug abuse and suicide in our children and teens as evidence the AMA "opposes legislation that would compound the stigma and discrimination that transgender face. " They specifically address sports discrimination in their recommendation.

It is obvious how discrimination against any individual or any group of individuals, contributes to disease and social unrest among us all.

Please for the health of our community and individuals in it vote No on SB 140.

Dr. Maureen Longworth, M.D.

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99802

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Mary Bishop [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 2:36 PM
To: Sen. Shelley Hughes
Subject: Male-bodied competition

To: Sen. Hughes
From: Mary Bishop, [REDACTED] Fairbanks 99709; [REDACTED]

I listened to your persuasive presentation before the Senate education committee about male bodied transgenders. I also listened to news reports about your bill. There is a difference and I think a very important difference. But the difference is not reflected in your bill!

As a longtime supporter of gays and lesbians and a more recent supporter of transgenders, there is, as I understand it, a vast difference between a male-bodied transgender and a "non-male bodied transgender". I understand the difference has all to do with when the transgendered individual began hormonal treatments. Most transgenders recognize their "situation" before they're 10 years old. Many then begin hormonal treatment to suppress their secondary sexual characteristics -- like beards, breast development, voice change, body development. I suspect that young men who have treatment before puberty do not develop male bodies.

In your presentation before the education committee, that difference was so apparent to me, and I definitely sympathize with the need to restrict male bodied competitors from female competitions. But that does not mean all transgendered females. Only those who transgendered after puberty.

How to get that important distinction amended into your legislation strikes me as needing some medical advice, which I cannot provide.

Your efforts on this Bill are providing a venue for discussing and understanding this controversial issue. Thank you for that.

I would not support the bill as it currently reads. I would support the bill if it was amended to include only male-bodied competitors.

Sent from my iPad...

From: S. Jordan [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 9:44 AM
To: Sen. Shelley Hughes
Subject: Opposition to SB 140

Dear Senator Hughes,

Thank you for your service in the Alaska Legislature. I live in Palmer and wanted to express my opposition to SB 140. I believe schools should be as supportive as possible to any student and emulate inclusive practices that allow students to grow, explore and feel valued. The space of school sports should be no different. The simple fact is that for most students, school sports serve as an outlet for exercise, learning teamwork and sportsmanship. Most will not go on to professional sports careers. This space shouldn't be one where we exclude or segregate athletes who want to participate. I want as many students who are motivated, to come to practice, learn to be team members and exercise. This can be a healthy space for any growing teenager. Mandating categorization and asking students to justify their gender is an inherently intimidating practice and will encourage students to self-exclude themselves. It will deepen the struggles already inherent to navigating gender identity and , I fear, lead to more pain and suffering for these students and their families.

I encourage you to please discontinue pursuing this legislation. Instead let's focus on creating more spaces for any student to thrive in our public schools.

Sincerely,

-Sam Jordan

"The planet does not need more successful people. The planet needs more peacemakers, healers, restorers, storyteller and lovers of all kinds." -Dalai Lama