

Vote “**NO**” on H.R. 28, the *Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act*

Sports are an invaluable part of the school experience. They offer fundamental life lessons—such as leadership, self-confidence, and teamwork—that every child should have the opportunity to experience. H.R. 28, the [Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act](#), introduced by Representative Greg Steube (FL-17), threatens to revoke federal funding from schools that allow transgender girls and women to play on girls’ and women’s sports teams, essentially implementing a nationwide ban. It seeks to single out students—some as young as kindergarten age—and ban them from participating in school sports teams with their friends.

We all want to keep school sports to be fair and safe for student athletes. But this can be accomplished and still be inclusive. That’s why states, school districts, and sports associations have created rules about who can participate in different sports at different levels across a range of issues, including this one. We don’t need politicians in Washington overriding their expertise with a one-size-fits-all blanket ban from the top down for every age and sport.

Moreover, of the over 500,000 student athletes currently competing in the NCAA, there are [less than 10 transgender student athletes](#). This **is not a widespread problem** that needs to be addressed at the federal level, and it certainly does not need to be addressed by politicians in Washington.

H.R. 28 would make school sports less safe for women and girls and violate their privacy. To enforce its ban on transgender student athletes, the bill could require girls—as young as pre-teens—to violate their privacy by “proving their gender.” For example, in [Kansas](#), where a similar bill was passed, there were concerns that students could be forced to have invasive inspections of their body parts. It is one of the many [reasons leading women’s rights organizations](#), such as Billy Jean King’s Women’s Sports Foundation, oppose this legislation.

If passed, this legislation would also invite people to question the gender of girls who do not look stereotypically feminine, leading to more harassment and bullying. For example, a female basketball player in [Utah](#) was harassed online after a Republican official falsely accused her of being transgender because of her larger build. This humiliation could happen to female athletes because of their height, hair length, athletic build, or even how they dress, allowing a stranger to call for a “gender check” on any girl in the country who wants to play sports.

Participating in sports teaches important values like perseverance, dedication, self-assurance, and teamwork. **We should want [more young people to play sports](#), not put up more barriers that subject girls to invasive interrogation or make them risk public ridicule.**