

Public Comment
Interscholastic Activities
Week 3: July 2, 2023 - July 8, 2023

From: [Anna Bosin](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Cc: [Tobin, Loki G \(LEG\)](#); [Fields, Zack \(LEG\)](#)
Subject: Let the girls play!
Date: Sunday, July 2, 2023 8:03:12 PM

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Attn Alaska Board of Education,

I am writing to add my public comment on the proposed ban on transgender athletes at the high school level.

The state of Alaska Board of Education SHOULD NOT ban transgender students from girls sports.

Is this an actual, real problem that schools are facing right now? No! Laws like this are based on fear and just create a problem where one doesn't exist. A real issue in our schools is the mental health crisis, which a law negatively targeting transgender students would actually worsen this crisis.

Transgender students are KIDS that deserve to have the same opportunities and high school experiences as their friends and peers. When students feel like they belong and are part of their school community, they show up to school daily and participate. We need all students to feel welcomed and included, and this means transgender students should be allowed to play sports.

Last of all, transgender students ARE protected under Title IX, which prohibits sex based discrimination in schools.

These kids are Alaskans. We should accept all our citizens with love and grace versus hate and fear

Anna Bosin
[REDACTED]

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Blair Moore](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play
Date: Sunday, July 2, 2023 4:08:57 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,
Ms. Blair Moore

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Christy Roe](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play
Date: Sunday, July 2, 2023 9:45:18 AM

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I would also like to note that the proposed changes are not based on data and research, but on anecdotes. A few loud, opinionated voices (without data to back up those opinions) should not be able to take away the rights of participation of our youth.

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Sincerely,
Ms. Christy Roe

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Cris Hill](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play
Date: Sunday, July 2, 2023 9:41:43 PM

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Sincerely,
Ms. Cris Hill

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Cris Hill](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play
Date: Sunday, July 2, 2023 12:36:46 AM

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Sincerely,
Ms. Cris Hill

[REDACTED]

From: [Dennis Murray](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Cc: shellyhughs@legak.org
Subject: Women's athletics
Date: Sunday, July 2, 2023 9:53:55 AM

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Dear Commisioner

I would like to add my voice to those who support the biology of sex in determining who can compete against whom. Allowing biological men to compete against biological women is unfair and the exploitation of women.

Please stop this insanity

Thank you for the opportunity to have input

Dennis Murray

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Proposed changes inter scholastic regulation
Date: Sunday, July 2, 2023 9:55:03 AM

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As a father of two grown females who both participated in sports in high school I am saddened that this is even necessary, but it is. I support proposed changes to the interscholastic activities regulation which preserves high school female sports and limits participation to only girls who are female at birth. It is my hope and prayer that common sense prevails. Don Simpson, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Glen Lopez](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play
Date: Sunday, July 2, 2023 3:41:46 PM

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Sincerely,
Mr. Glen Lopez

[REDACTED]

From: [Katie Melrose](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: NO ban on transgender athletes
Date: Sunday, July 2, 2023 4:41:38 PM

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Transgender students are KIDS that deserve to have the same opportunities and high school experiences as their friends and peers. When students feel like they belong and are part of their school community, they show up to school daily and participate. We need all students to feel fully welcomed and included, and this means transgender students should be allowed play sports.

Last of all, transgender students ARE protected under Title IX, which prohibits sex based discrimination in schools.

Thank you for considering my comments in regards to this issue. As an educator in Anchorage School District this is an important issue, singling out and excluding students never has a positive outcome.

Sincerely,
Katie Melrose

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Larry Rhodes](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Regulations
Date: Sunday, July 2, 2023 10:45:33 AM

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Please vote against allowing biological makes in high school sports to compete against girls in sports.

Larry Rhodes
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Maggie Hotch](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play
Date: Sunday, July 2, 2023 9:17:24 AM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

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As someone working on the front lines of mental health for youth in our state I am certain this policy will cause significant harm. Please instead address the larger problems in our education system including teacher support and retention and student services.

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Sincerely,
Ms Maggie Hotch

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [rebecca.lent](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play
Date: Sunday, July 2, 2023 6:41:06 PM

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I have friends in the school system who would be personally affected and negatively impacted by these changes and lack of protection towards trans girls.

Sincerely,
Miss rebecca lent

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [RJ Fontaine McHendry](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play
Date: Sunday, July 2, 2023 9:47:07 AM

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Sincerely,
Mrs. RJ Fontaine McHendry

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Serene OHara Jolley](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Please vote no on the proposed changes to single out trans girls
Date: Sunday, July 2, 2023 9:08:29 AM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

Dear board,

I urge you to vote no on the proposed rule change that would exclude trans girls from playing on the team that matches their gender identity. This has never been a problem in Alaska. And in fact is not a problem nation wide. Some have used fear to scare parents into thinking their children are in danger but this is simply false. I hope that you do what is right to protect children, which is your duty as a board. Modeling bullying and peddling in false fear to further a political agenda is immoral. Using trans kids as political pawns will ultimately result in the emotional pain and possible self harm to trans youth. I know others have shared with you the statistics about trans youth and their bullying and suicide rates. Those statistics are my friends. I have friends that endured years of horrible bullying by misguided peers who were fueled by lies and whose actions were supported by school administrators and parents. People just like you in a position of power who modeled mistreating other students because of who they were. I hope you will model kindness, love, and accepts. Common Christian values, as well as most other faiths. Common values we hold dear here in Alaska. We are not a state of hate. Please vote no.

Serene O'Hara-Jolley

Sincerely,
Dr. Serene OHara Jolley

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Siftar Brianna](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play
Date: Sunday, July 2, 2023 6:47:20 PM

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Sincerely,
Miss Siftar Brianna

[REDACTED]

From: [Susannah Woodruff](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: move to limit participation on girls high school sports teams to "females who were assigned female at birth"
Date: Sunday, July 2, 2023 6:53:13 AM

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Hello,

I am writing to express my opposition to limit participation on girls high school sports teams to "females who were assigned female at birth". I am a white, cisgender woman who has been involved in competitive sports my entire life.

We need to start being more inclusive and accepting of everyone—even if they are different from you. Have you ever been told you are lesser or not worthy or not good enough or too different? I urge everyone to think back to their childhood when life in school was often very difficult. Adolescence is not easy an easy time for anyone. Your body is changing, hormones are raging, you may be teased. We should be finding a way to be inclusive for everyone—not finding more ways to marginalize people. Marginalizing people fosters depression and resentment and sometimes even violence.

Encouraging ALL students to participate in sports is good for everyone. Being a member of a high school sports teams teaches kids about teamwork, and respect for others, and the importance of physical fitness, and achieving personal and team goals. Why would we not want this for everyone?

So please, do not limit participation for transgender girls on girls high school sports teams. Transgender girls ARE girls. Again I urge you to think back to a time when you were marginalized and how it made you feel. It hurt didn't it? Let's include all people.

Susannah Woodruff
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Victoria Nelson](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play
Date: Sunday, July 2, 2023 9:56:18 AM

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Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. There are real issues facing "gendered" sports, such as disparities in funding for girls' teams or a complete lack of teams for girls to play on. Not to mention the fact that sports/gym coaches are already more likely to perpetuate sexual or other types of abuse on their students (does Larry Nassar ring any bells?) These are the more pressing issues facing girls sports, and these are what deserve the focus and attention of our governing bodies, instead of discriminatory policies that will help no one, and harm an already vulnerable population.

To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,
Miss Victoria Nelson

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Alyssa Quintyne](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play
Date: Monday, July 3, 2023 12:00:06 AM

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Sincerely,
Ms. Alyssa Quintyne

[REDACTED]

From: [Dave Rose](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Admin Code 4 AAC 06
Date: Monday, July 3, 2023 8:38:36 AM

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I am opposed to this proposed change!

I support sports being split based on birth sex.

Please do not allow this proposal to pass through!

Dave Rose
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Eric Syrene](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play
Date: Monday, July 3, 2023 7:51:39 AM

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Sincerely,
Mr. Eric Syrene

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Jessica Gill](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Let ALL kids play
Date: Monday, July 3, 2023 7:47:10 AM

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Sincerely,
Ms. Jessica Gill

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: LGBTQ participation in sports
Date: Monday, July 3, 2023 9:27:42 AM

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I coached Middle School Cross Country, Track and Field, and Rifle Team for over 10 years and taught for 27. I was fortunate to coach under a framework that focused on participation and individual growth rather than winning and preparation for athletic scholarships. My first, and only year as assistant coach for the basketball team, parents asked me to take over for the head coach and play only the elite players to preserve their student's chance to be on a winning team with only the best possible teammates. I declined the coup attempt. In part because of its novelty, but mostly because I agree with the philosophy the focus of our coaching is to build good human beings, who play fair and who win and lose gracefully. And to provide those opportunities for as many students as possible. It is in this spirit I implore you to allow middle school students to play on whatever team and in whatever division they feel they belong in. The careers of Chad Bentz, Carlos Boozer and Hilary Lindh would not have been altered much if in middle school, non-binary students were allowed to compete along side them. When Cassie Dunn, wrestled in the boys division for the first time, the possibilities for others expanded as she broke down a barrier that should not be resurrected, and the cost to the boys that she defeated was slight.

As a teacher and coach I struggled to find the desired pronouns and cues to move my students through activities and coaching. Old habits. But my students seemed to accept and respect gender choices and sexual self-identification almost effortlessly. The cost to cis gendered middle school athletes is small in comparison to the costs experienced by gay and lesbian and trans students when participation is denied. If, indeed, we find it necessary to burn this small group of children on the altar of fairness, let us wait until they have the protections that other minorities achieved, through social and political action at that point, banning their participation might make sense. Given the current climate of inflated fears and history of violence against this population we fail as teachers and coaches by forcing this ban on a small group of vulnerable children.

John Wooden says it well: 'Success is peace of mind which is a direct result of self satisfaction in knowing you made the effort to become the best of which you are capable'

-Regards

Ray Imel & Elissa Borges

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Teal Francis](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play
Date: Monday, July 3, 2023 8:08:55 AM

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Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Teal Francis

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Abdul Samad](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play sports
Date: Tuesday, July 4, 2023 1:59:58 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These announced changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,
Abdul Samad

Sincerely,
Mr. Abdul Samad

[REDACTED]

From: [Allison Felton](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Women's sports
Date: Tuesday, July 4, 2023 9:35:57 AM

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I would like to provide public comment on transgender students participating in women's sports.

Allowing biological males to compete in women's sports is definitely a violation of title 9 and women's rights. I am the parent of a female athlete and I am dismayed that we would allow sports to be taken away from our young women. We would allow biological males to take away their awards, trophies, and scholarships is unthinkable. Not to mention the very real health and safety risks to our female athletes when competing in certain sports. It has happened in other states where transgender students have severely injured women in volleyball and other sports contributing to traumatic brain injuries. I assume our state places great value in safety considering all of the head injury education we have to complete when signing our high schooler up to play sports.

Transgender athletes are still able to compete. They can dress however they like-they just have to compete in the biological category that fits their biology.

Warmly,
Allison Felton

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Catherine Burtness-Adams](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play
Date: Tuesday, July 4, 2023 4:59:50 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,

Ms. Catherine Burtness-Adams

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Catherine Pegau](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play
Date: Tuesday, July 4, 2023 9:48:41 AM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

As the parent of a young trans man, I know the struggles trans kids go through on a daily basis. Being part of a team, being accepted for who they are, is critical in a child's development and mental health. Why would you want to put that at risk? Why would you want to "other" kids at a crucial time of their lives when they seek acceptance? Unfair advantage of trans girls in sports? Not significantly so. And the few students overall going beyond high school or college in their sport are still going to stand out. In the meantime,

Let. Kids. Play.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Catherine Pegau

[REDACTED]

From: [Ellie Kiser](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Protecting High School Girls Sports
Date: Tuesday, July 4, 2023 8:46:45 PM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to you as a biological female who spent her whole high school career playing competitive volleyball against other biological females in the State of Alaska. My plea to you is to protect the next generation of biological female athletes by ensuring competitive fairness and safety by not allowing biological males to participate in biological female high school sports. It is very presumptuous to assume that just because someone supports this idea, that it means they are "trans-phobic" or that they carry mal-intentions towards transgender people. Because I too think everyone should have the opportunity to play sports-- as sports have largely shaped and impacted many areas in my life, especially my work ethic and leadership skills. In addition, to many young girls, sports saves lives by giving purpose and providing a sense of "sisterhood" that they cannot find elsewhere.

However, the reality whether people are in denial or not, is that a biological male's body is built differently than a biological female's body, which gives them advantages in muscle strength, and therefore cannot be fairly matched up in a physical competition. Given this undeniable fact, I believe that trans gender athletes also recognize this fundamental truth, and the unfortunate issue this causes. If the Board allows trans-females to participate in biological female sports it will not only destroy the competitive nature and spirit of biological females, as well as sports as we know it, but it will also shatter the uniqueness that all biological females have-- making them even more vulnerable to social and physical injustices in the future.

Please consider finding a different solution to helping high school trans-gender athletes play sports in their own special setting, just as "boy's and girl's sports" were created out of recognition and respect of their physiological differences.

Thanks for your time,

Ellie Kiser, BSNS, RN

From: [Binky Graham](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Biological men competing in women's sports.
Date: Tuesday, July 4, 2023 8:30:51 AM

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Sent from my iPhone

I am totally against biological men competing in women's sports. It is not fair to women and not natural. God made male and female biologically. No surgery can change that. It may change the body but the biological gender will not change. The gender at conception.

I pray you stand for what is right in God's eyes!

Thank you

Elma Graham
[REDACTED]

From: [Greg Melvin](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: 4 AAC 06.115(b)(5) - Comment
Date: Tuesday, July 4, 2023 10:47:38 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

It's quite unsettling to see that we are in a state-of-mind that such clarifications to rules of participation must be made in our sports activities so that individuals know what is expected of them. I speak of those individuals who not only participate in sports, but those who are on the outside...parents, community, government officials. If this action of passing the amendment is needed in order to secure the freedom of our students to participate equally with peers of their biological sex, then so be it. I support it. But let it also be known that right and wrong can never be written down, nor legislated. We are not that wise. This amendment is only the beginning, and the state must be aware that additional proposals...those which are right, and wrong...will be coming. Be prepared. Count the costs. Take a stand.

Gregory H. Melvin

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Kyra Sherwood](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Protect students' privacy and let every kid play
Date: Tuesday, July 4, 2023 5:34:00 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of the AK Board of Education mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will significantly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers. Doing so could also single out trans kids for bullying or forcibly out them to unsafe people, ultimately making the State liable for potential outcomes like child abuse and increased rates of youth homelessness.

Making this change to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any actual problems and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes. Let trans students be part of the team.

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.

Sincerely,
Ms. Kyra Sherwood

[REDACTED]

From: [Larissa Zook](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Date: Tuesday, July 4, 2023 6:13:55 PM

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To whom it may concern:

I support proposed changes to the interscholastic activities regulation which preserves high school female sports and limits participation to only girls who are female at birth.

Our young women have lost some hard earned rights in the athletic arena due to biological males joining teams designated for females. This has created an unfair advantage for the biological male. They are stealing potential scholarships and future advantages only a biological female athlete deserves the right.

There are many safety problems created during team travel and locker room time as well. Teenagers are still maturing, sexually curious and immature. If a student claims the female gender yet has male genitalia and hormones, the chances of them acting on their hormones is high and the students on the team are all left in a vulnerable position. The safety of all the students, (and on a female team I especially mean the biological females) should be held as a top priority.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.

Larissa Zook
907-347-0829

[REDACTED]

|

From: [Lisa Bricker](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Changes to 4 AAC 06.115(b)(5)
Date: Tuesday, July 4, 2023 10:22:44 AM

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State Board of Education and Early Development:

I have questions regarding the proposed changes.

This change applies to high school sports, when there are already significant differences year over year and within genders due to puberty and physical growth. There is no way to control for those factors to ensure fairness within either sports, girls or boys, nor has that ever been a factor in allowing kids to play. Are we now going to start height/weight/BMI/muscle mass requirements in order to allow children to play at school too?

The change specifies "assigned at birth" but is limited to girls sports. Will every high school boy who wants to compete have to provide a birth certificate or is it just the girls? Does this open the state to a discrimination lawsuit?

What I'm most curious about is the educational and developmental value of outing transgender athletes and opening up every single high school girl on every single team to sexual scrutiny.

Thank you for your careful consideration of the educational value of this lesson to all Alaska residents.

Lisa Bricker
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Princess Lucaj](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Tuesday, July 4, 2023 12:11:53 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Princess Lucaj

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Adrienne Canino](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 5:26:56 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

High school should not be an age of such deterministic policy enforced from the top down.

When did we, as a community, become so frightened and inflexible that the games our children are allowed to play must be defined by external forces and hijacked by polarizing national spectacle? Let families deal with family issues, let teenagers grow into who they feel best being, given it harms no others. Yes, that means letting them join their friends who see them for who they identify as.

At the end of the day, don't we want. High school sports to be happy memory about friendship and teamwork? Not a tearful and deterministic message about who they are not allowed to be.

Sincerely,

Ms Adrienne Canino
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Dawn Barron](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 6:24:45 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports. Schools should be inclusive, safe spaces for young people to learn and thrive in all aspects of education. Extracurriculars are integral to creating curious, enthusiastic learners. Going out of your way to create a problem where none exists while targeting an already vulnerable population is a bad look and enormous waste of resources. Focus on real problems.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Dawn Barron

[REDACTED]

From: [Lilly](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Please change the regulations!
Date: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 4:29:25 AM

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- > I support the proposed changes to the interscholastic activities regulation which preserves high school female sports and limits participation to only girls who are female at birth.
- > This change will ensure safety, equality and fairness to these young athletes.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Morrall
[REDACTED]

From: [Jamie Brownwood](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: preserving high school female sports
Date: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 11:21:52 AM

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I support proposed changes to the interscholastic activities regulation which preserves high school female sports and limits participation to only girls who are female at birth. This is a physiological fairness issue. Female athletes should not have their future in athletics hindered because they are forced to compete against biological males who have an unfair advantage. I want my daughter to be able to participate in high school sports and I want it to be fair for her and all female athletes.

In 2019, Lia Thomas, then competing against males, completed the 1650-yard freestyle in 14:54:76, faster than the female's world-record. Two years later, competing as a transgender female, Thomas broke records by finishing the same event more than 38 seconds ahead of the second-place finisher, a biological female. Thomas also won the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:41.93, winning by an enormous margin of nearly seven seconds. Medical journals confirm what is observable to every individual, biological sex is a major factor influencing best performances and results show that females will not run, jump, swim or ride as fast as males. It is empirically certain that males are faster than females and have a significant competitive advantage in sports.

The whole reason there is the distinction between female and male sports is to provide fairness for females who cannot run, jump, swim or ride as fast as a biological male. If the borough allows biological males to compete in biological female sports, the men will end up overtaking the females and there will be no places for the females to compete.

--

Jamie Brownwood, PE
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Kyle Chapman](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 5:03:22 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Trans kids already face so many challenges growing up in communities that do not accept them. Passing this regulation change will only serve to further alienate trans kids from their communities.

The International Olympic Committee does not ban transwomen from participating with cisgender women in sports competitions. There is no scientific proof that transwomen have an advantage over cisgender women in sports.

I am asking that the board take this into consideration and not ban transgirls from playing on girls' sports teams.

Sincerely,
Mr. Kyle Chapman

[REDACTED]

From: [Marsha Buck](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Cc: Senator.Loki.Tobin@akleg.gov
Subject: Discrimination in School Athletics
Date: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 1:26:57 PM

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TO: Alaska State Board of Education

RE: Proposed Amendment to 4AAC 06.115(b)(5) – adding a new sub-paragraph (D)

I am writing with strong opposition to the proposed transgender girls' sports ban in Alaska. Discrimination has no place in our wonderful state, especially discrimination against a small, vulnerable, young, and already marginalized population. Please let the girls play! They did not choose the gender they were assigned at birth any more than you or I did. Trans girls need your support not your judgment.

One of the things I like about the Alaska Constitution is the way it protects our right to privacy. The proposed amendment would violate that right to privacy, even the privacy of girls in your family and mine. I do not support the proposed amendment that affects women's high school athletic teams, and I ask you not to support it as well.

Marsha Buck
[REDACTED]

From: [Alaska Online Public Notices](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: New Comment on NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES ON INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES IN THE REGULATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT
Date: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 3:09:02 PM

A new comment has been submitted on the public notice [NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES ON INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES IN THE REGULATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT](#).

Submitted:

7/5/2023 3:08:59 PM

Aaron Weisser
[REDACTED]

Homer, AK, US
Anonymous User

Comment:

I strongly support the proposal to limit participation in girls sports to those who are female by biological sex and assigned so at birth. Please protect girls sports.

You can review all comments on this notice by [clicking here](#).

[Alaska Online Public Notices](#)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Shannon Powers](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 7:46:03 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Sincerely,
Ms. Shannon Powers

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Allison Vernon](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 7:28:13 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Sincerely,
Mrs Allison Vernon

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Canyon Kokochuruk](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 10:52:06 AM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,
Mr. Canyon Kokochuruk

[REDACTED]

From: [Curtis Smith](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Do not limit transgender girl participation
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 11:20:59 AM

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Dear DEED Commissioner,

Please do not adopt the proposed regulation changes on interscholastic activities that would limit the participation of transgender girls in Alaska's girls' school sports. The proposed policy would address a problem that simply does not exist. Instead, continue to allow school sports to be inclusive, thereby avoiding adverse effects on the physical and mental well-being of transgender youth in Alaska. The best part of school sports is the camaraderie among athletes and the friendships forged from being part of a team. The proposed changes would only increase divisiveness.

Sincerely,
Curtis Smith

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Dario Notti](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 12:00:29 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I am opposed to the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports. these proposed changes violate Alaskans right to privacy and equal protection.

Sincerely,
Mr. Dario Notti

[REDACTED]

From: [Donald Witzel](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Regulation Concerning Transgender Girls in Sports
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 11:45:09 AM

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We oppose the proposed regulation that would bar transgender girls from participating on high school girls teams. We are sad and upset that Alaska has been drawn into the transphobia that seems to be sweeping through the states with conservative legislatures and governors. Contrary to the misinformation being distributed to the public by a few lawmakers, (We didn't know we had a problem until Shelly Hughes decided to adopt a page from the national right wing movement and introduced legislation last year.) women's athletics are not under threat or at risk for anything from a small number (only one in 9 years in Alaska according to ASAA Executive Director Mr. Strickland) of transgender kids who want to play. It is a fallacy that you can create a league in which transgender kids can play and I believe you know it. It is discrimination of a class of persons and restricts the participation of those who meet the transgender description. Nationwide, this red herring has become a distracting, wedge issue that rallies conservative groups, particularly right wing religious groups to support policies restricting participation by transgender youth.

Transgender athletes are not "stealing" scholarships from girls. The NCAA already has policies in place on that issue. It is also being presented that those who oppose discrimination directed toward transgender youth are promoting boys playing on girls teams, nothing could be further from the truth and is a misrepresentation to the public of the desire of those who are against discrimination. We oppose the singling out of a class of kids for discriminatory policies.

We have a grave concerns that these policies are just opening the door for future restrictions or laws. I hope you have been paying attention to what is happening in other states such as Florida, Idaho and Kansas to name a few, where laws are now on the book preventing transgender athletes from participating in athletics, and laws making it illegal to provide gender affirming care are being passed. Anti-trans bathroom bills are up for consideration in many states and as you probably know, in the Matsu the anti-trans bathroom issue has already been raised. If you follow through and pass these restrictive regulations, you are probably going to be asked to pass others in the future. We think that making restrictions and discriminations to prevent future incidents is very bad policy.

Our concern extends to how of LBGTQ students may be treated by other students if the state sanctions policies that single out transgender youth. These kids have a higher rate of mental health concerns and to breach their privacy (By the way, privacy is enshrined in the Alaska Constitution.), would contribute to more problems including suicide. It is our opinion and experience that kids who are LBGTQ do not want to attract more attention in high school and virtually no transgender kids have chosen to participate in sports.

The issue is being portrayed as a Title IX issue, we are not convinced it is. Title IX was about providing fairness in funding, facilities, and opportunities for women/girls that men and boys

sports had enjoyed for years. Although there is more equity, there is still a long way to go as evidenced by the treatment of the women's final four by the NCAA a couple years ago. At the high school level in Alaska girls and boys sports are treated fairly equally, but Title IX it is being hijacked by those that say they are trying to protect girls from unfair competition by transgender athletes. Contrary to what some politicians would have us believe, transgender athletes are not overrunning women's sports at any level.

We are not sure that the politicians promoting anti-trans policies and legislation even care about women's sports. This topic is a wedge issue that scores points with their base and provides notoriety for the politicians as culture warriors. Culture wars have been meant to be a distraction from other problems in society such as wealth inequity, suppression of voters rights and corporate corruption. Iowa basketball player Caitlyn Clark probably did more to promote women's sports this season than any politician can hope to do.

We hope you consider the long term implications of your actions and chose to rethink this discriminatory change. Keep politics out of our high school sports.

Don and Phyllis Witzel



Andrews, Janell L (EED)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Erinn Barnett [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 6, 2023 11:26 AM
To: Commissioner, DEED (EED sponsored)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Excluding transgender and gender diverse children from sports solely based on their assigned sex at birth is a form of discrimination which denies them the same opportunities and rights as their cisgender peers and reinforces a system that perpetuates inequality.

Allowing all students to participate in sports based on their affirmed gender identity ensures equal access and contributes to the creation of an environment where every child can pursue their interests and talents without discrimination. Embracing inclusivity and equality in sports benefits both transgender children and society as a whole.

Further, the proposed regulation changes serve no discernible purpose beyond discrimination, as evidence suggesting that transgender athletes possess “unfair” athletic advantages does not exist. (1)

What evidence does exist, however, shows that exclusionary policies, such as the one proposed currently, do negatively impact transgender people—including children, and that the proliferation of these discriminatory policies not only legitimizes existing biases which impact the health and wellbeing of trans people, but has the potential to further them.

Policies like the one proposed here does the opposite of helping to support the health and safety of children, or students, and student athletes.

Which is why I insist that you do not adopt these changes.

1: “Currently, there is no direct or consistent research suggesting transgender female individuals (or male individuals) have an athletic advantage at any stage of their transition (e.g. cross-sex hormones, gender-confirming surgery) and, therefore, competitive sport policies that place restrictions on transgender people need to be considered and potentially revised.”

1. Jones, B.A., Arcelus, J., Bouman, W.P. et al. Sport and Transgender People: A Systematic Review of the Literature Relating to Sport Participation and Competitive Sport Policies. *Sports Med* 47, 701–716 (2017).
<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdoi.org%2F10.1007%2Fs40279-016-0621-y&data=05%7C01%7Cdeed.commissioner%40alaska.gov%7C42a61342f18b46e2be9508db7e56d8b7%7C20030bf67ad942f7927359ea83fcfa38%7C0%7C0%7C638242684809698694%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiL>

CJQJjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=La%2FJ2p2RyZgZlFp8%2B96I6UX5H%2BO%2FiyqHblFMbdCEgdw%3D&reserved=0

2: Barbee, Harry, Deal, Cameron, Gonzales, Gilbert. Anti-Transgender Legislation—A Public Health Concern for Transgender Youth. *JAMA Pediatrics*.176(2):125-126 (2022) doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2021.4483

“Legislation that prohibits transgender youth from competing in sports consistent with their gender identity could also engender negative health consequences. Overall, sports participation has positive effects on youths’ health, but studies suggest that marginalizing transgender athletes could reduce those health rewards. As an illustration, transgender people who experience harassment in athletic environments, like gyms and locker rooms, are exposed to stress that appears to limit or erase the health benefits that they would otherwise enjoy from sports participation. Policies that ban transgender youth from athletics—or force them to play on teams that do not align with their gender identity—stigmatize transgender athletes, legitimize marginalization that already exists in athletic spaces, and add health-harming discrimination to transgender people’s lives. Rather than weaponizing athletics against transgender people, policy makers should ensure that sports participation is a mechanism that improves health.”

Sincerely,
Ms. Erinn Barnett



From: [Fr. Randy Hillman](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Email Testimony on Transgender Girls in Traditinal Girls Sports - Wed. July 26, 2023
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 8:14:24 AM

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Public Testimony – DEEDs change to Include Transgender Girls in Traditinal Girls Team sports.

Wednesday 26, 2023 4 AAC 06.115(b)(5) *DON'T ALLOW*

-

To: Alaska, State Board of Education and Early Development

I am writing to you in regard the change to Include Transgender Girls in Girls Team Sports.

I understand that you are trying to do “The Right Thing”. You as DEED Board are talking into what has been happening throughout the nation with Boys/Men as transgender girl/women winning in head-to-head sports that Were a Girls’ Sports. You as a DEED board have seen this such as a girl trained her whole life and was competing in a swim meet for a college scholarship and lost to a transgender girl which still had all his male body parts dressing with all other girls in the girls’ dressing room. Picture in your own mind’s eye you as a girl swimmer trying to get mentally ready for the meet and this person with all male parts dressing next to you. What would your daughter think?

Would this be considered Porn in any other setting?

Do The Right Thing! *Exclude Transgender Girls from Girls Team Sports!*

Now, some may say that it is unconstitutional in the State of Alaska but that is just a smoke screen.

**Sincerely,
Fr Randy Hillman**

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [James Pryor](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: No males in female sports
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 8:59:28 AM

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To whom it may concern

I am taking this time to comment on the proposed ban of transgender athletes in girls' sports in Alaska. Currently I am a school board member for Kodiak Island Borough School District, taught for thirty three years in that district, have four children that were high school athletes including two daughters that played basketball and volleyball. I coached boys and girls basketball and girls volleyball and currently officiate high school volleyball.

It is imperative that girls' sports be protected in Alaska. If males are allowed to enter girls' sports it will be their destruction. There is a good reason that a men's volleyball net is set at 7'11" and the women's at 7'4", men are simply stronger, and faster. In my coaching years the girls' varsity basketball team comprised of junior and senior athletes would scrimmage 13 year old middle school boys and be crushed. The varsity girls could not compete against boys that are four years younger.

My daughter's had the opportunity to compete in varsity sports, if males are allowed to take away that opportunity there will be two levels of male sports and biological females will be superseded. Please protect our female athletes in Alaska.

Sincerely,
James Pryor

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [JJ Jackson](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 9:19:58 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Sincerely,
Mr. JJ Jackson

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Joshua Knicely](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 8:31:20 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

I am a student at UAF and am about to receive my doctorate in geophysics. I have worked with NASA in multiple capacities. I don't like talking about myself. I share that information to point out the fact that I have been very thoroughly trained to understand the reality around me using evidence and logic. I say that so that those of you reading this today can appropriately appreciate that fact.

The data clearly shows that transgender women do not have an unfair advantage over cisgender women. Transgender people represent about 1% of the population, meaning about 1% of women are transgender, so - if all things really are equal - we would expect 1% of the victors in women's sports to be transgender women. That's not what we see. If transgender women had an unfair advantage, then we would expect to see more than 1% of women's trophies going to transgender women. That's not what we see. What we actually see is that far far less than 1% of victors are transgender. Until more than 1% of those women's trophies are being won by transgender women, this isn't about making sports fair, it's about dehumanizing transgender people, which is step one of the white supremacist's playbook.

These attacks on trans youth are nothing more than white supremacy. That's the only logical conclusion I can draw because that's what the data indicates - because that's exactly where the nazis started. Adolf Hitler once called Dr. Magnus Hirshfeld "the world's most dangerous Jew." Do you know why? Because he studied transgender people with compassion. That was it. That was all it took to make him the most dangerous person as far as the nazi reich was concerned; treating transgender people with compassion.

Which is pretty stupid considering how long transgender people have existed. Transgender and non-binary people predate the christian religion. They're talked about in ancient Sumerian culture, ancient Babylonian, ancient Mesopotamian, ancient Indian, ancient Japanese, in ancient maori, ancient aboriginal, native hawaiian, native american, and native alaskan cultures, again all of which predate christianity.

Causing harm to transgender people - which is exactly what this ban would do - is just the next step in the white supremacist playbook.

If it's the goal of the Board of Education to push white supremacists ideals, then vote for this regulation.

If the Board wants to push ideals like equality, freedom of choice, and personal liberty - you know, supposedly American ideals - then please vote against this regulation.

Sincerely,
Dr. Joshua Knicely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Comment on proposed amendment 4 AAC 06.115(b)(5)
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 11:06:55 AM

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I strongly object to the proposed amendment of 4 AAC 06.115(b)(5), preventing transgender girls from participating in high school sports. Transgender girls are girls. At a time in life when all children need support and acceptance, this policy will unnecessarily stigmatize and ostracize some children. It will further limit children's opportunities to develop peer relationships and receive crucial mentorship through sports programs.

The state's role is to ensure that all children have access to safe opportunities for sports: facilities, equipment, coaches. Please foster acceptance of all children. Do not discriminate against transgender girls. Please do not adopt this discriminatory policy.

Julianne Thompson

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Kelley Jansen](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 6:41:41 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

Alaska is usually a wonderful place where it's residents let people live and let be. I strongly oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

This change would promote more bigotry, violence, and negatively influence the Alaskan way of letting people live their lives without judgment.

Sincerely,
Ms. Kelley Jansen

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Rachel Christensen](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 9:10:57 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Sincerely,
Ms. Rachel Christensen

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [RJ Fontaine McHendry](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 10:10:32 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

As a born and raised Alaskan and graduate of Wasilla High School, I strongly oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports. I am not a trans person, but if this had happened while I was in school I would have certainly committed suicide over it. Why? Because I was at risk, like so many children are right now, and once you regulate one child's identity, you threaten everybody's sense of autonomy and constitutional freedom. This over-regulation of inappropriate, private health care topics IN SCHOOL affects more than the small number of children you are purposely discriminating against, with this proposed regulation change. It affects everyone, in ways you cannot possibly comprehend from the limited, outdated lens with which this proposal was created. Having no freedom to explore who you are in school results in a painful, violent, usually short adulthood for at-risk youth. I survived my childhood in Wasilla because of inclusion, not despite it, and because of exposure to kids different from myself, and because I felt safe within the walls of my school to question who I was and try new things without the abuse of imposed political or religious ideologies. If inclusion was not encouraged, I would be dead. Point blank. You don't understand how hard it is to grow up in Alaska nowadays, period. Do not impose your harmful demands on this new generation. Because your generation's nursing homes will be empty and lonely, and there won't be anyone to care for you as you did not care for these kids who are dying at higher rates of suicide than any generation previously. Statistics are already clear: your generation is aging and there literally aren't enough kids right now to staff your end of life care / aging needs in the future. Don't you dare set a precedent now, because karma is a wonderful gift that comes for us all in the end. Your generation is afraid because of misinformation, and your judgment is severely limited by the narrow lens of individual experience. No single parent gets to decide how other children get to live. This issue is none of your business, nor is it the business of anyone besides the individual children who just want to live and play sports in Alaska. Get out of trans kids' business NOW. Stop playing with fire you don't understand. You cannot take back the suicides this kind of discrimination has already caused in our communities. Do not encourage more death and abuse in our state by purposely bullying one vulnerable group of children. Oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 regarding school sports!

Sincerely,
Mrs RJ Fontaine McHendry

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Shoshanah Stone](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 12:49:25 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Sincerely,
Ms Shoshanah Stone

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Victor Nichols](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 11:50:26 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

Please consider creating opportunities for transgender-only athletic leagues in our schools. Trans girls have an unfair advantage on girls sports teams, because, they are boys. Put boys on the boys' team or disqualify them from competing.

Sincerely,
Mr. Victor Nichols

[REDACTED]

From: [Adam Sanchez](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Comment for Girls Sports
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 9:00:03 PM

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No boys in girls sports.

Thank you, Adam Bertoldo

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Adrienne Wilson](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 4:55:16 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Sincerely,
Ms. Adrienne Wilson

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Erin Willahan](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 1:59:56 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

I am a former student athlete at the Anchorage School District high school level and collegiate level and a cisgender woman.

These changes are discrimination, hateful, dangerous, and unethical.

It is a myth that allowing trans athletes to compete will harm cisgender women. Trans girls are girls.

Excluding girls who are trans hurts everyone. It invites gender policing that could subject anyone, trans or cisgender to invasive, discriminatory, and harmful tests or accusations of being “too masculine” or “too good” at their sport to be a “real” woman. This is divisive, stigmatizing, and creates truly deadly risks.

Meanwhile Trans athletes vary in athletic ability just like cisgender athletes do and this is often due to reasons far beyond biological sex assigned at birth. For example, consider factors like wealthy parents who spend thousands on a child’s personal training for a sport outside of school.

There is literally no evidence to prove that the very same cis girls who have claimed that trans athletes have an “unfair” advantage do not already consistently performed as well as or better than transgender competitors.

As a student athlete both as a varsity girls flag football player and a player on the University of Oregon’s women’s rugby team, it has been an honor to compete alongside my fellow teammates and opponents, both trans non-binary and cisgender and the true threats I have felt as a student athlete have come from lack of funding for women’s sports and anti-lgbtq discourse such as this that has hurt the people I love, the family that I found on sports teams.

Trans women are women and every woman and girl has the right to participate in sports and play as well as to privacy. Shame on you for considering this at all and for subjecting trans youth and the LGBTQ community to the vitriolic, dehumanizing discourse that this proposal creates, particularly after Alaska’s citizenry overwhelmingly rejected this idea on multiple occasions in the state legislature.

Sincerely,
Ms Erin Willahan

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Irene Bembenek](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 4:19:52 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Sincerely,
Miss Irene Bembenek

[REDACTED]

From: [Jess Clark](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Girls in girls sports
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 1:12:06 PM

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To Whom This May Concern:

I am a mom for four awesome girls, coach leading 60 plus youth girls in basketball each week, and past athlete who was blessed to play sports growing up. I am deeply troubled by the idea that the state may open female sports up to boys who have made a decision to be considered female. While I support and will love all people, allowing biological boys to play girls sports will set girls back to pre Title IX days. I grew up taking pride in the fact that I could compete with and against amazing girls on the court and in the field. I worked so hard to be the best I could be and gained a ton of confidence along the way. I want the same opportunities for my daughters and all the youth girls that choose to be athletes as well. Allowing biological boys to participate in female sports will take this away.

Title IX was created to give girls the opportunity to compete on an equal level with boys. Not with boys but to have the same opportunities. There is a clear difference in athletic strength and speed between biological boys and girls. There is SO much research to prove that biological males have higher testosterone levels, which allow for greater athletic performance. There are boys in high school that can run faster times than Olympic medal women who invest their whole lives into training to pursue those times. There are transgender people that support this claim of a dramatically, unequal playing field when biological boys compete with biological girls. A well know person that transitioned from male to female is Caitlyn Jenner, who has spoken out on it multiple times in agreement that this line should not be crossed. This is not a fear or discrimination. It is proven facts and put the girls at an unfair advantage. This sets them up to lose confidence, scholarships, and at a disadvantage in stats and records. If the state of Alaska allows biological boys that identify as girls to participate in girl athletics, girls will be harmed on so many levels and this will also harm the sports these girls look forward to participating in. Then it adds to confusion of choice. Just this past year, at my daughters high school, a child won homecoming prince and the same day he participated in a Powderpuff football game (girls only). When lines get blurred, it creates confusion for everyone.

I feel that everyone should have an opportunity to participate in a sport if they choose. This should be done on biological limits and there should be no negotiation on, whether kids can choose to be playing with the girls based on a decision, they feel strongly about. Look at the swimmer from Penn State. The transgender swimmer competed for 3 years as a guy and then switched to compete against females and shattered swimming records that had stood for years, and was nominated for a female athlete of the year. He was a mediocre finisher in boys athletics and joined the female swim team and crashed everyone. He had been taking hormone suppressors for a year, and still robbed girls opportunities and took a spot that some girls dream of. There is plenty of research to prove that even taking hormones suppressors, a biological boy will have more testosterone in their body than any female competitor ever will.

This being said, Alaska needs to stand up for all the girls and biological females and protect opportunities they work so hard at. This decision will harm so many kids. We need to stand up for them and support sport being separated by biology.

Thank you for your time,

Jess Clark
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Mara Momodu](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 8:20:06 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I agree with the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Students should only be able to play sports on teams with those of their same birth gender!

Sincerely,
Ms. Mara Momodu

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Maureen Knutsen](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 2:40:01 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I am a retired public school employee who worked with PS-12th grade students for 31 years at my community's school.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Sincerely,
Ms. Maureen Knutsen

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Melinda Farmer](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 5:29:58 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Sincerely,
Ms. Melinda Farmer

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Melissa Capone](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 10:03:15 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports. Every kid deserves the chance to play and feel community.

Sincerely,
Ms. Melissa Capone

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Monika Smith](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 12:53:02 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Sincerely,
Mx Monika Smith

[REDACTED]

From: [paul fuhs](#)
To: board@asaa.gov; [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Trans males in girl's sports
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 5:40:05 PM

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I do not support this, especially for the safety factor. My daughter plays girl's 16 hockey and when you compare them to boys 16 there is no comparison. Not only would it be unfair, it would be flat out dangerous and our girls would get hurt.

This is not a social club, it is a competitive sport and it begs the question of why do we have boys and girls sports in the first place? Because there is an obvious difference. If there was only one team and the girls had to compete to be on the team, almost none of them would make it. That is why girl's sports were created and then protected by Title IX. Allowing trans boys violates the very spirit and intent of that important title.

No one cares if they want to wear a dress and identify as a girl. And no one is saying they can't play sports, they can just play on the boys team.

Please protect the safety of our girls, especially in contact sports. Maybe cornhole of badminton OK but not the rest.

thank you for your consideration.

Paul Fuhs
[REDACTED]

From: [Tahlah McAnelly](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Changes to girl's sports
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 6:22:21 PM

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I am writing in support of the proposed changes to inter scholastic activities supporting girls sports. I'm a concerned parent of three children who all attend public school here in Alaska. There are many reasons that girls should be able to compete against only other girls who were born female. First is safety because the male body is physically stronger than females. Even if a person is transitioning it takes years for their body to change when taking hormones. In high school their body will still be stronger than a female. If girls are playing against trans athletes in basketball, soccer, volleyball, etc. they are more likely to be injured. Which has happened already. Second boys have bigger hearts and lungs than girls which gives them an advantage when competing. They have more red blood cells which carry oxygen to muscles. Women have a higher fat percentage which means they're carrying extra weight. Third I'm concerned my girls and others could lose out on scholarships, a place on the team, and losing their self confidence because they aren't able to defeat a trans athlete in individual sports such as wrestling, track and field, cross country running, swimming and gymnastics. Lastly girls should not have to share locker rooms with trans athletes. It is inappropriate for them to change and shower in the same locker room and it leads to sexual assault which are occurring in other states. Not to mention having trans athletes on a girls team as they travel for many events. Leaving for 3 to 4 nights at a time is common and I don't want my daughters to be in that situation. I've heard some opponents say are you going to access my child's medical records to prove what they were born as? In Alaska it's my understanding that a birth certificate is required when enrolling in school. This is all you would need so you wouldn't be violating any one's privacy. Also when a person is transitioning this statement alone tells you they are in the process of changing to a different gender than what they were born as. Please stand firm for all girls in high school by changing the Alaska administrative code by limiting participation in separate high school athletic teams for female students in competitive or contact sports to females who were assigned female at birth. Thank you Tahlah McAnelly from [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: public comment on proposed regulations in interscholastic athletic activities
Date: Friday, July 7, 2023 8:41:08 AM

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I am writing in support of female high school athletes that would face unfair competition if they were forced to compete on a level playing field with trans-female athletes. I feel that some adjustment must be made to the current rules so that if a female athlete were to compete with a trans-female athlete they would need to be placed in a separate category or in some other way scored differently.

Female athletes and trans-female athletes could compete in the same event but the trans athlete would have to be rated against other trans athletes that are present or are somehow compared using a database that includes other trans athletes competing in other locations. No race or other event should allow a trans athlete to win a title or otherwise qualify for a statewide event that would cause a female athlete to be excluded or not to finish in the top 3, top 5 top 10 etc.

I do feel that trans athletes should be able to compete but that their scores, times etc should not cause a top finishing female athlete to be excluded or demoted.

Adam Wool

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Girls' Sports
Date: Friday, July 7, 2023 8:05:44 PM

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I write urging you to prohibit biological males from participating in girls' sports.

I recently attended region and state track meets. At the state meet in Palmer, I was very impressed by Campbell Peterson, an incredible female athlete from Chugiak. She won every long distance race I watched this past season with the exception of the state meet where she was inched out by hundreds of a second. The winner posted a time of 5:08.54. Campbell's time was 5:08.75 in the 1600 event.

The boys' 1600 meter state event was won by a runner from Grace Christian. His time was 4:20.95. The times for the first 5 finishers in that race ranged from 4:20.95 to 4:27.17.

Whether it is track, cross country running, or cross country skiing, boys' times are always much faster than girls'. Allowing biological males to compete with girls will discourage them from competing and destroy girls' sports. Please use common sense and maintain girls' sports for girls. Either create a separate category for transgender individuals or allow them to compete on boys' teams.

Alyce Hanley [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Dean Knox](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play
Date: Friday, July 7, 2023 11:44:59 AM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

It would violate cis girls, trans girls, and make violence happen at trans girls who just want to have fun with sports. It could make a lot of trans girls get very hurt or worse.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,
Mr Dean Knox

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Esther Smith](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Friday, July 7, 2023 10:35:22 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Sincerely,
Mx. Esther Smith

[REDACTED]

Joan Nockels Wilson

*Transmitted via email
deed.commissioner@alaska.gov*

July 7, 2023

Janelle Andrews
Executive Secretary to the State Board of Education
& Early Development
333 Willoughby Avenue, 9th Floor
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Ms. Andrews and Board Members:

I write in support of the proposed amendments to 4 AAC 06.115(b)(5) to protect girls' sports and respectfully request the Board of Education to adopt the regulation with the minor amendment discussed here.

As you are no doubt aware, 4 AAC 06.115 is the regulation governing interscholastic competitions. Paragraph(b) of the regulation permits a school or school district to pay dues to the the Alaska School Activities Association, Inc., or other similar nonprofit associations administering interscholastic activities in Alaska. In each case, the school or school district may pay dues only if that association administers interscholastic activities in a manner consistent with good sportsmanship and academic rigor. Paragraph(b)(5)(d) as amended will now require that to meet those standards, the associations must administer interscholastic activities in a manner that:

ensures fairness, safety, and equal opportunity for female students in high school athletics by providing... that if a separate high school athletics team is established for female students, participation shall be limited to females who were assigned female at birth...

The proposed regulation recognizes a biological reality best exhibited by girls and boys competing in the quintessentially Alaskan Mount Marathon competition this past Fourth of July. If not divided by biological sex, the winning girl would have come in 14th in the race, behind thirteen boys. The second-place girl would have been 25th; the third-place girl would have been 38th; the fourth-place girl would have been 43rd; ad the 5th place girl would have placed forty-fourth. The tenth-place girl, still a mark of high achievement in such a grueling competition, would have placed 51st, a 5x difference in her actual accomplishment.

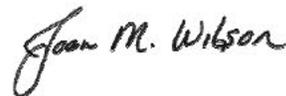
The biological reasons for protecting female-only sports competition are readily apparent. Biological sex is binary, determined by genetic code at conception, not choice. On average, boys become stronger than teenage girls by the age of thirteen. They are stronger than grown women by the age of fourteen. The body strength of teenage girls is roughly 67% that of teenage boys. Enhanced physical capability in boys is a result not only of higher testosterone levels, but of larger hearts, larger lungs, larger throats, and longer bones. As such, to compete on their own merit and under fair rules of competition, female athletes should compete against their biological peers.

This is not about lack of empathy for individuals who seemingly believe they can change their biological sex. I do want a place for these children to heal and athletics may be part of that journey. However, that healing should not be at the expense of young girls, such as my own. My daughter competes in both volleyball and softball at a local Anchorage high school. As the proposed regulation states, she deserves a guarantee of fairness, safety, and equal opportunity, especially when it comes to using athletics to find her place in the world.

Although I fully support the regulation, I do request one amendment. The proposed regulations utilize "females who were assigned female at birth" to explain who these athletes entitled to compete against their own peers are. However, even those words create unnecessary confusion. Sex is not assigned at birth when health care providers look at physical characteristics of an infant. It is a biological reality determined by chromosomes at the time of conception. As such, I recommend the Board utilize the term "biological females" in place of "females who were assigned female at birth" when describing the protected class.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on this extremely important regulatory change. I look forward to its final implementation into the laws of Alaska and the long-term protection of female sports and young girls going forward.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan M. Wilson".

Joan Nockels Wilson

July 7, 2023

Kristi Kantola

Commissioners Office, Department of Education and Early Development
Attn: Regulations Review

In regard to the "Resolution to Preserve Opportunity for Student Athletes While Balancing Competitive Fairness, Inclusion, and Safety for All Who Compete," I support the part of the amending subparagraph to 4AAC 06.115(b)(5) which says:

"(D) ensures fairness, safety, and equal opportunity in athletics by providing, in consideration of responses to a school survey under 4 AAC 06.520,

(i) a separate team for each sex with participation based on a student's sex assigned at birth;

(ii) a team for students of either sex regardless of sex assigned at birth;"

Generally speaking males are stronger, bigger and faster than females. When biological males are allowed to compete with biological females they have a distinct advantage. They are likely to win trophies and get athletic scholarships that would otherwise go to biological females who have often worked for years to be competitive. This is unfair to individual biological females and to women's sports.

There is also the chance of injury to female competitors as was the case of the high school volleyball player, Payton McNabb, who was seriously injured when a male player forcefully hit a ball into her face.

I do not support (D)(iii) which provides for a separate team for female students with participation based on a student's sex assigned at birth and a team for students of either sex regardless of sex assigned at birth, but does not provide for a separate team for male students with participation based on a student's sex assigned at birth.

In a state where domestic violence and sexual assault are significant issues it is problematic that we would encourage biological males to engage with females in competitive sports, especially contact sports. As parents most of us teach our children to respect the opposite sex. To then say for instance "except if you're a male and want to wrestle with a female and overpower her with sheer strength, or play a sport like football and tackle a female full force as you would a male." It is unfair to the males, if they have been taught all their lives to respect and protect women. In contact sports they are less likely to play with the force they would use with a male competitor. Therefore they will be less likely to win. It is unfair to the females because there is greater chance of injury. Granted, many injuries are accidental, but they can be just as painful and debilitating as intentional injuries.

An exception would be competitions such as mixed doubles in tennis or coed team sports such as baseball or volleyball where there are an equal number of males and females on each team, and every player agrees to having both sexes play.

Additionally, it opens the door for biological females to play on male teams and risk a greater chance of injury. Although most biological females would not choose to try out for a male team, it is foreseeable that some might do that.

Therefore, I support subparagraph (D)(i) and (ii), but not (iii).

Sincerely,

Kristi Kantola

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Liz Dean](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Friday, July 7, 2023 12:00:33 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Sincerely,
Miss Liz Dean

[REDACTED]

From: [Mary Burtness](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: public comment: Opposed to: PROPOSED CHANGES ON INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES
Date: Friday, July 7, 2023 9:14:49 PM

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Dear members of the Alaska State School Board:

I would like to take this opportunity to say this regulation is not needed and will do more harm than good. This is a horrible invasion of a child's life and will weigh heavily on their success in school. There are so few incidents in this state and this action totally blows the situation out of proportion.

I ask you to please weigh your decision based on public comment, not pressure from the Governor or hold your beliefs over the input of the public.

Thank you for your time.

Mary C Burtness
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Nola Lamken](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Friday, July 7, 2023 8:18:16 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports. I, too, felt transgender participation was unfair, BUT WITH EVIDENCE, I changed my mind. Scientific American, an extremely reliable journal over my entire lifetime, documented that original appearances did not hold, that "cis" individuals, some who were the first to complain, actually won when they were better prepared. Therefore, because dealing with trans natures proves very important for mental health--which we all need to be more widespread, and since the sports stay truly competitive, I urge you NOT to adopt the proposed changes.

Sincerely,
Ms. Nola Lamken

[REDACTED]

From: [Putt Clark](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Anti-transgender in athletics proposal
Date: Friday, July 7, 2023 3:02:14 PM

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To the Board,

Most people testified AGAINST the proposal to limit transgender athletes at the June 7 meeting, and I would have been one of those voices as well, but didn't know about the meeting until it was too late.

The lone, sane voice on this matter was the Student-Elect - who didn't have a vote, and was even mildly scolded for his view on the matter by the chair. How humiliating, and how sad, that a grown man takes the opportunity to mildly shame a youth on the board, in full view of all people across the state.

My transgender daughter (a 2023 Valedictorian at a major high school in Fairbanks) and my family are so relieved she's not going to be part of the public school system in Alaska anymore. She's also fleeing our state to a more LGBTQ friendly state for her future studies.

Too bad the board can't focus on more important educational matters, such as academics, or how to retain/support our teachers, instead. Apparently carrying out the Governor's agenda is more important than listening to the voices of our elected officials who wouldn't pass the legislation that HE put forth.

Science has shown (and I can tell you from watching my daughter who wanted to compete in track) that transgender girls ultimately lose much of the gains they had from testosterone. She was forced to compete with the boys in Cross-Country, and she was always in the back of the pack.

By the time track season rolled around, she gave up on it because everything had become so controversial. She was in it to have fun. Not to be a controversy, take a stand, or draw attention to herself.

I could apologize for the sarcastic tone of this testimony, but as the parent of a transgender daughter and a gay son, I'm so tired of playing nice on these issues. The LGBTQ+ community just wants to BE. They just want to have a normal life and to be recognized as human, have families, and do the same things other people do. Too often people conflate gender identity with something sexual, or that it's somehow perverted, or a mental illness. IT IS NOT! These are people who were born into bodies that don't fit, and they just want to be happy in their own skin, which includes doing all of the activities other people do in the gender they identify with.

Thank you for your time,

Putt Clark



From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Rosalind Barron](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Friday, July 7, 2023 2:55:41 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Sincerely,
Miss Rosalind Barron

[REDACTED]

From: [Sarah Crawford](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Protect Alaskans girls sports
Date: Friday, July 7, 2023 1:01:16 PM

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I am a mother and grandmother that has had my daughters and now, my granddaughters participating in sports on the Kenai peninsula. I also have relatives with daughters in the lower 48 participating in girls/women's sports. I am saddened that we even have to defend their rights to compete, but this is the world we live in. There have been at least 2 dozen studies done on the advantages that males have over females when competing against them. This was done at the cellular level and it is proven that the advantages of "biological males"(XY chromosomes) have the advantage in muscle mass, lean body mass, muscle strength and two measurements of endurance (hemoglobin and hematocrit) plus the indirect measures of oxygen levels, transportation and delivery of oxygen in their bodies. The study also finds that while synthetic estrogen and anti testosterone do show to slightly decrease these parameters. The fact remains that biological males will always have an advantage over biological women. If they are so adamant about competing they need to start a new category or compete in the field in which they were born...

Thank you for you time.
Sarah Johnson

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Didi Peters](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment Girls Sports
Date: Saturday, July 8, 2023 11:47:02 AM

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Hi,

My name is Didi Peters. I live in on the Kenai Peninsula and I am a graduate of Kenai Central High School.

Please don't segregate cis and trans girls in athletics. I can think of many reasons it is an unnecessary step. For instance, the schools don't have the resources available for a new, third coed division. There won't be enough students to fill the team rosters, leading to forfeits and cancellations. There's not enough time at the school's facilities for practices, nor playing-field space available for games in the evenings and weekends. We'll need more adults to officiate. It's all going to cost money at a time when the existing, inclusive, competitions are working! I think this separate division will be unequal and lead to violations of the participating students' rights. These inequities will lead to less safe sports for trans girls and they could be injured at higher rates than they are currently.

Now is a time when civil rights for transgender people, of all ages, are being taken away. It seems to unify the members of the Republican Party. Seeing them all dance to this tune induces my anxiety, and I would guess children aren't unaware of this anti-trans movement sweeping across their country. Think of the consequences of that worry on children's mental health; surely it is detrimental to their learning. You're entrusted with protecting all kids, including the LGBTQ ones. Don't make them doubt their value to our cities. Some people have a gender identity that defies existing classification, but that doesn't mean they deserve to be segregated.

In no way is it an absolute truth that all transgender girls have a physical advantage. Trans girls come in all sizes. And some cis girls are stronger than others. I believe there has always been room for diversity of physical development among growing, student athletes. Let all of the girls, cis and trans, excel and learn to compete! The idea here that scholarship money must not be awarded to trans girls is discrimination.

This proposed rule change will butt up against privacy protections in the State Constitution. Do not empower coaches and parents to become tyrannical in investigating the gender identity of other people's children! This proposal could add to bullying, rumor spreading, name calling, and even the exclusion of some students from activities. Is the plan to root out trans girls that pass as cisgender girls? How (and how come)?

What about dance team and cheer? Are you seriously going to keep some students out of these competitions on the basis of sex? That would be very cruel. It is sex-based discrimination.

Please keep an open mind. These students deserve opportunities, and if you turn them away,

you will weaken their ties to our communities. You will humiliate them and they might drop out of school. Denying someone who's different a spot on a team is shameful. The politicians supporting such a change have forgotten how fun it is to celebrate the accomplishments of our student athletes.

Think about it.

Didi Peters

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Jade Phillips](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play
Date: Saturday, July 8, 2023 1:38:51 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,
Miss Jade Phillips

[REDACTED]

From: [Kendal Pike](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: ATTN: Janelle Andrews: Proposed Regulations Interscholastic Activities
Date: Saturday, July 8, 2023 11:25:10 AM

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Board of Education-

I am a mother of four including one daughter, a health care worker, a lifelong athlete and college lacrosse player, a local school board member and an Alaskan resident.

I am writing to urge you to protect biological girls' sports. We are all aware of the biological and physiological differences between males and females and while they exponentially grow after puberty they are present from birth. We are all also aware of the horrific injuries that have occurred against biological females in sports in the last two years. The female volleyball player with a broken neck that lost scholarships because a male spiked the volleyball to her head. The mixed martial arts biological female who suffers permanent damage from a fractured skull by a grown male fighter pretending to be a woman. The MMA fighter, Fallon Fox, took to twitter to say this about competing against female fighters, "For the record, I knocked two out. One woman's skull was fractured, the other not. And just so you know, I enjoyed it. See, I love smacking up TEFS in the cage who talk transphobic nonsense. It's bliss! Don't be mad." This man actually won money for nearly beating that woman to death on television and claiming to have enjoyed it. These are just two examples of the extreme misogyny and physical danger posed to biological women and girls.

A third category of sports must be made for children who feel as though they do not fit into their biological category. Forcing biological males on biologically female teams is dangerous for too many reasons and it quite frankly is misogynistic in nature.

I will never consent to my daughter playing against biological males under any circumstances for her safety and for our stance against the misogyny of the era. Women and girls fought hard for women's rights just to be told the most beautiful woman in the world, "Ms. Universe" is a man, the "Woman of the Year" is a man, the "best women's swimmer" at the female college level is a man. Men do not get extra rights because they grow out their hair or behave femininely. Womanhood is not a mask or costume.

I urge you to protect the integrity and safety of girls sports by adopting regulations that do so.

Thank you for your time and service to our great State.

Kendal Kruse

From: [Leona Oberts](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Girl's sports
Date: Saturday, July 8, 2023 1:05:37 PM

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Please do not allow biological males to compete in girl's sports. It is unfair as biological males have greater physical strength than females generally. It is unethical to allow them to compete against women. If anything establish a new division for them to compete against other biological males.

Thank you.

Leona Oberts

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Lili Port](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Saturday, July 8, 2023 6:27:07 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports. Transgender women and girls make up only a fraction of a fraction of Alaska's population. The number of transgender girls who compete in our state's scholastic sports is even smaller still. Enacting a law that would target a mere handful of literal children is beyond draconian. Transgender girls deserve to be included in the same activities that their friends and peers are afforded.

Sincerely,
Ms. Lili Port

[REDACTED]

Andrews, Janell L (EED)

From: Mike Coons [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 8, 2023 3:55 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Commissioner, DEED (EED sponsored)
Subject: Testimony on Transgender Girls in Traditinal Girls Sports

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I am told that my verbal and written testimony re this issue of keeping girls sports, just that, girls sports, will not be used during this 30 day period and to submit new written testimony. Thus my original 3 minute and full written testimony follows my new comments.

I further request to be heard on 26 July. Please send zoom information.

My name is Mike Coons from Palmer. Since the testimony last month on the regulation changes to ensure girls sports are protected from cross dressers whom are males participating in girls sports, new facts and issues have arisen.

Ketchikan City Council and Willow have moved the book "Let's Talk About It" from young adults to adult section of the library. More wins like this are coming, nationally and State-wide. What does this have to do with this topic? This is a great example of the attempts by the Cross Dresser and Queer groups to push for anything and everything they can. This issue on girls sports is just another avenue for them to upend our nations and global moral fabric that has been around for millennia.

Of note, in the last paragraph, I don't use the LGB as the proponents use it, such as LGBTQ+ As time goes on more and more LGB people are opposing what the Cross Dresser and Queer groups are doing, harming the LGB community. In fact there are leading Drag Queens that oppose what the Cross Dresser and Queer groups are doing.

In previous testimony, one of the testifiers made the comment that "transgenders" have been around before Christ, thus it was OK then and now. Yet slavery, murder, pedophilia, and many other horrendous acts have been around just as long, and all are abhorrent to all societies! Prior to Christ, Sodom and Gomorrah were wiped off the face of the earth by God, God has not changed his mind about this!

I respectfully request a unanimous vote to pass this regulation and enforce it. For what I fear will happen is that places like Anchorage will try to ignore this. I am sure the ACLU and others will take this to court. Depending on the Judge, there may well be an injunction on implementation. Then again, maybe not, depending on the Judge(s) we get to hear it. Either way, ours and many other court cases across the nation are fighting this fight for our girls and women to have the even playing field under Title IX. I believe we will win this fight.

Mike Coons
[REDACTED]

To the Alaska State Education Board

The following is my 3 minute testimony in support of the DEED Resolution.
I follow my verbal with additional
written information.

My name is Mike Coons from Palmer Alaska. I fully support the DEED Regulation on Interscholastic Activities. This has nothing to do with any discrimination towards any of the approximately 7.2%, nationally who identify as LGBCD, of those, 0.3% are CD. For Alaska, 350, 13-17 year old's identify as cross dressers, 5,000 total LGB. For the record I refuse to use the word "Transgender" since that is a lie and I will not use their language in furtherance of that lie.

This is about the safety of girls and women whom participate in sports from harms caused by going up against a boy or man whom has far better physical capabilities.

As we have seen, in the case of college swimming, a male could not compete at the highest levels with his fellow male athletes. He decided to say he was a woman, was allowed to compete with those women and because he had more muscle mass, greater lung capacity, etc. stole competitions away from those women athletes. Just on FOX on 19 April was a volleyball female athlete who stated that males competing in the female division now have a net 7 inches lower than male volleyball, which causes a dramatic unfair advantage. Even more recently, Connecticut is being sued by a female track athlete who is the fastest girl in her sport, but because a boy beat her, she lost out on valuable College Scholarships. I would not be surprised on how having to have a male in the female locker-rooms prior to an event, especially in an individual sport has a mental impact on the upcoming competition. Having to see a naked man undressing, dressing for an event must be mentally tasking and disturbing to say the least. This time is when the athletes are getting their heads into the upcoming event. This adds another layer of disadvantage to women.

You have heard a lot today that has nothing to do with this regulation.

That this will increase suicides of cross-dressers, yet crickets on girls suicide increases. Not said is there is an even higher suicide rate of cross-dressers post surgery and hormonal therapy. You have heard anger, high emotions and threats of lawsuits, threats of violence, make no mistake, violence will come. This is how this group acts, through verbal and physical intimidation. We have the White House, without Congressional action, wanting to change Title IX and then withholding education funding if we refuse to follow his dictates. Not only does that violate the 10th Amendment, but he is being a dictator. All parents want is what is best for their child not just in sports but throughout life. Stand your ground for all children of Alaska by disregarding these vial attempts and standing for the 99.07% of normal Alaskans!
BTW Matsu School Board rocks and is leading the way on this and many other issues!

That concludes my verbal testimony. I would like to add in my written testimony some supporting comments for the verbal testimony and other comments I did not have within the time limits.

I support that regulations should

1. Provide a girls' division with participation based on a student's biological sex at birth.
2. Provide a division for students who identify with either sex or gender.

This is fair and reasonable so all can participate in the sport of ones choosing. If any harms happen, because of size differences, then that was already agreed to by the parents and players.

The board will be told by those supporting males on females' team that as board members they will be responsible for increased depression and suicide for those with gender dysphoria if they set a policy based on biological sex. The advocates will try hard to lay future blame on them.

The truth is that depression rates and suicide ideation are already troubling among these youth, absent the sports issue. It is access to real mental health services, not the so called mental health from people whom advocate for this dysphoria as "normal", the care and support by loving families and friends that will help these young people. These children need to be affirmed as whom they really are as a boy or girl, know they are valued, know they are accepted and loved and that the affirmation, love and help is there to move them forward as adults not some policy that is discriminatory against girls and women which causes more frustration, division, anger and confusion. The truth is that depression rates and suicide ideation are also trending alarmingly upward among teenage girls.

Trying to address mental health issues for a small group of confused youth through a policy that is unfair and unsafe for girls not only does not solve the depression and suicide issue for that small group but it exacerbates the depression and suicide problem for the entire teenage female group while also creating unfair and unsafe conditions for girls which rob them of opportunities. Trying to fix one problem by creating another is clearly not the answer, especially when the attempt won't work anyway. As I stated in my verbal testimony, please understand these tactics are used because the advocates who are pushing for male access to girls' teams don't have a logical basis for their argument; the data doesn't support their position. Shaming and canceling will be their MO and the Education Board members need to be prepared for it, recognize it when it happens, and resist it. I and many others ask the Education Board to do the right thing in a respectful and civil manner, with kindness and gratitude for your service and with applause for your commitment to ensure girls do not face discrimination but retain an equal opportunity to participate and excel in sports. Let's not forget that the policy you will be setting will have ramifications as far as protecting girls' dignity and privacy in the locker room, the showers, and the bathrooms while participating in sports, not to mention for sleeping arrangements when teams travel for away-games.

Thank you for your time, effort and sacrifices as board members. I was a commissioner for the Alaska Commission on Aging and am very aware of your sacrifices.

Latest Census Report, 2020 13-17 year old LGBCD.

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From: [Michael Kruse](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Re: ATTN: Janelle Andrews: Proposed Regulations Interscholastic Activities
Date: Saturday, July 8, 2023 10:41:53 PM

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Board of Education-

I am a father of four children including one daughter, a professional working in Alaska a lifelong athlete, and an Alaskan resident.

I am writing to urge you to protect biological girls' sports. We are all aware of the biological and physiological differences between males and females and while they exponentially grow after puberty they are present from birth. We are all also aware of the horrific injuries that have occurred against biological females in sports in the last two years.

A third category of sports must be made for children who feel as though they do not fit into their biological category. Forcing biological males on biologically female teams is dangerous for too many reasons and it quite frankly is misogynistic in nature.

I will never consent to my daughter playing against biological males under any circumstances for her safety and for our stance against the misogyny of the era. Women and girls fought hard for women's rights just to be told the most beautiful woman in the world, "Ms. Universe" is a man, the "Woman of the Year" is a man, the "best women's swimmer" at the female college level is a man. Men do not get extra rights because they grow out their hair or behave femininely. Womanhood is not a mask or costume.

I urge you to protect the integrity and safety of girls sports by adopting regulations that do so.

Thank you for your time and service to our great State.

Mike Kruse

From: [Yana Malyk](#)
To: [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Support for preserving high female sports
Date: Saturday, July 8, 2023 6:03:09 PM

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Yana Malyk and I support proposed changes to the interscholastic activities regulation which preserves high school female sports and limits participation to only girls who are female at birth. I believe this will ensure fairness, safety and equal opportunity for female athletes.

Thank you,
- Yana Malyk

From: Kendal Pike

Sent: Saturday, July 8, 2023 1:24:50 PM

To: deed.commissioner@alaska.gov <deed.commissioner@alaska.gov>

Subject: ATTN: Janelle Andrews: Proposed Regulations Interscholastic Activities

Board of Education-

I am a mother of four including one daughter, a health care worker, a lifelong athlete and college lacrosse player, a local school board member and an Alaskan resident.

I am writing to urge you to protect biological girls' sports. We are all aware of the biological and physiological differences between males and females and while they exponentially grow after puberty they are present from birth. We are all also aware of the horrific injuries that have occurred against biological females in sports in the last two years. The female volleyball player with a broken neck that lost scholarships because a male spiked the volleyball to her head. The mixed martial arts biological female who suffers permanent damage from a fractured skull by a grown male fighter pretending to be a woman. The MMA fighter, Fallon Fox, took to twitter to say this about competing against female fighters, "For the record, I knocked two out. One woman's skull was fractured, the other not. And just so you know, I enjoyed it. See, I love smacking up TEFS in the cage who talk transphobic nonsense. It's bliss! Don't be mad." This man actually won money for nearly beating that woman to death on television and claiming to have enjoyed it. These are just two examples of the extreme misogyny and physical danger posed to biological women and girls.

A third category of sports must be made for children who feel as though they do not fit into their biological category. Forcing biological males on biologically female teams is dangerous for too many reasons and it quite frankly is misogynistic in nature.

I will never consent to my daughter playing against biological males under any circumstances for her safety and for our stance against the misogyny of the era. Women and girls fought hard for women's rights just to be told the most beautiful woman in the world, "Ms. Universe" is a man, the "Woman of the Year" is a man, the "best women's swimmer" at the female college level is a man. Men do not get extra rights because they grow out their hair or behave femininely. Womanhood is not a mask or costume.

I urge you to protect the integrity and safety of girls sports by adopting regulations that do so.

Thank you for your time and service to our great State.

Kendal Kruse