

What does House Bill 972 do?

[HB 972](#) (PN 1133) would ban transgender girls and women from participating on athletic teams or in sports designated for “females, women or girls.” This ban would apply to students participating in teams or sports sponsored by a public primary or high school, a public institution of higher education, or any school or institution where students or teams compete against a public school or college.

HB 972 is part of an effort to push trans people out of public life.

HB 972 is one of many [similar bills](#) that have been introduced in state legislatures around the country targeting young transgender people. After years of focusing on restrooms and locker rooms, opponents of LGBTQ equality have shifted strategy to focus on excluding trans youth from activities that affirm their sense of self. At last count, over [200 anti-LGBTQ laws](#) have been proposed in 35 states in 2022. These attacks represent a coordinated campaign to push trans people out of public life and criminalize being transgender.

Bans on sports participation can negatively affect students’ mental health.

85 percent of transgender and non-binary youth recently reported that the persistent political attacks on trans people [have had a negative impact on their mental health](#). And for trans youth and young adults alike—who often consider suicide at high rates when they don’t have support from friends, family and schools—being able to be a part of a team can be lifesaving.

Medical professionals and women’s rights organizations oppose bills like HB 972.

Bills like HB 972 are based on [inaccurate and harmful beliefs](#) about transgender people. Leading medical organizations, like the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), have decried these discriminatory bans as unscientific. Likewise, [two dozen women’s rights organizations](#) oppose bills like HB 972, which attempt to pit cisgender athletes against trans athletes, and fail to address real challenges facing women and girls in sports.

HB 972 would violate state and federal constitutional guarantees of equal protection.

Courts have already intervened in cases targeting trans student athletes. A federal judge dismissed a challenge to [Connecticut’s](#) policy permitting trans athletes to participate in school sports. Other courts have blocked enforcement of laws similar to HB 972, including those passed in [West Virginia](#) and [Idaho](#). And it’s not just the courts—the U.S. [Department of Education](#) and [Department of Justice](#) have also argued that these bans violate federal civil rights law under Title IX and the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

We urge you to oppose House Bill 972.

Transgender people want to participate in athletics for the same reasons as their peers: to challenge themselves, improve fitness, and be part of a team. Trans youth have the right to participate in sports consistent with who they are, just like anyone else. Denying them that opportunity is blatantly unconstitutional and discriminatory.

For more information on this bill or other LGBQ or trans-related legislation, please contact us:

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