

## Testimony in Opposition of SB208

Kristin Prince

Discrimination against transgender youth

Senate Education Committee

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My name is Kristin Prince. I am a nurse and a parent of a transgender child. Today, I am writing to express my opposition to SB208, restricting women's sports team participation. Notably, I am disappointed. Why is allowing transgender students to participate in sports continuing to be an issue. Moreover, this argument is incredibly lightweight and biased. Naturally, all people come in different shapes and sizes: tall people and short people—some stronger than others. These individuals should not be discriminated against for their differences but celebrated. The ideology of SB208 is cruelly excluding youth in our communities and acts like these are lowering equality standards. All children deserve the right to endeavor to participate in sports. We teach young people when we set biased standards founded on superannuated reasoning—Segregating transgender children from their cisgender peers is honestly lowering the bar. Actions like these facilitate the unacceptable marginalization of transgender youth. The transgender community is a worthy part of our society, and they should have the same right to participate in sports without discrimination. Any child would be traumatized by humiliating and unreasonable medical examination.

"Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home – so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman and child seek equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerned citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world." -Eleanor Roosevelt

By following through with SB208 we are proving that we have learned nothing from history and the undue exclusion of people. Indeed, once we know better, we should in turn do better.