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A judge has blocked the ban on trans girls in girls' sports, days after it was reported that there had been complaints about supposed trans competitors.

BY TRUDY RING  
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Judge Keith A. Kelly in the Third District Court of Utah, located in Salt Lake County, issued a preliminary injunction Friday against the state's blanket ban on trans girls in girls' school sports, meaning it can't be enforced while a lawsuit against it proceeds. The ban is only one section of the law passed as House Bill 11. He left the rest of the law intact, including the requirement for trans girls to go before a commission to determine their eligibility to compete in girls' sports.



"Thus, the effect of this preliminary injunction will not mean that transgender girls will automatically be eligible to compete on their school's girls' teams," Kelly wrote. "Rather, it will allow them to compete only upon the commission's determination that their being able to compete is fair under all of the circumstances."

veto to pass the legislation in March.

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Legislature's Education Interim Committee Wednesday, the UHSAA had the student's school investigate, looking over her kindergarten, and it turned out that she was not trans. He didn't identify the student, the

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He said the association has received other complaints about supposed trans competitors, sometimes with people saying a girl simply "doesn't look feminine enough."

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transgender," Sue Robbins, a member of the Transgender Action Network in Utah, told *The Salt Lake Tribune*. "It becomes about judging whether being trans is safe."

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have a real problem with that story. ... I just wish we could be a little more thoughtful in life and a little less critical of other people."

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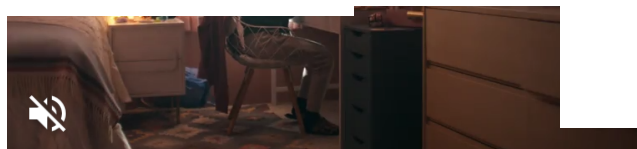


Meanwhile, the parents who filed suit against the law welcomed Friday's injunction. "My husband and I are very relieved by this decision," Debbie Roe, a parent plaintiff in the lawsuit, *Roe v. UHSAA*, said in a **press release**. "We are grateful the court understood how much harm this law has caused, which has been a huge source of stress and trauma for our child. Our daughter just wants the same chance as other kids to make friends and play on the playground. We just want her to have the opportunity to do that."

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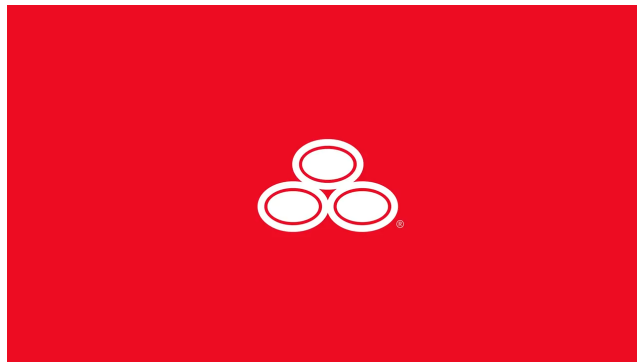


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This is a win not only for my child but for all girls in this state," added Jean Roe, another parent plaintiff. "This law is based on stereotypes and misconceptions that are harmful to all girls. I am grateful the court has put this dangerous law on pause and that, at least for the moment, all Utah children can know that they are valued and supported."

"We are very pleased by the court's decision," said Justice Christine Durham, former chief justice of the Utah Supreme Court and senior of counsel at Wilson Sonsini, one of the lawyers representing the parents. "Thus far, every court to rule on a similar ban has barred it from taking effect, due in part to the serious harms caused by excluding an entire group of students from such an important school activity. We read today's decision as recognizing that the law is not only discriminatory but puts Utah children at needless risk of lifelong harm. We look forward to moving forward with the case and securing a permanent decision blocking the law from taking effect."



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