

NWLC Recent Resources—LGBTQI+ Students

2019

- April 10, 2019 – [Statement of Women’s Rights and Gender Justice Organizations in Support of Full and Equal Access to Participation in Athletics for Transgender People](#)—a statement by 23 gender justice organizations supporting inclusion of transgender people in sex-separated spaces:
 - “Just as opponents of equality claimed that cisgender women and girls would be harmed if transgender people could use restrooms that match who they are, opponents are now claiming that the need to ‘protect’ cisgender women and girls in athletics justifies opposition to nondiscrimination protections for transgender people in public spaces and activities. As organizations that fight every day for equal opportunities for all women and girls, we speak from experience and expertise when we say that nondiscrimination protections for transgender people—including women and girls who are transgender—are not at odds with women’s equality or well-being but advance them.”

2020

- March 17, 2020 – [Keeping Trans Athletes Off the Start Line Will Not Fix Girls’ Sports](#)—NWLC blog from high school athlete opposing Idaho’s sports ban:
 - “The sport has been rocked by stories of disordered eating, abusive coaching, and a ‘win-at-all costs’ culture that puts girls’ mental and physical health on the line. These systemic problems affect young athletes every day, and none of them have anything to do with competing alongside trans girls. **If lawmakers and school administrators are serious about protecting girls in sports, they must focus on affirming girls’ rights to be safe and healthy athletes, regardless of what their bodies look like.** That means hiring women coaches, ensuring that school teams have access to registered dieticians, and investing in mental health supports for athletes. It means working to close opportunity gaps that keep girls of color from experiencing the many physical, academic, and social benefits associated with school sports. It means compelling athletic sponsors to stop treating pregnancy like an injury, and to start giving their athletes the paid leave that any parent deserves. And it means protecting trans girls by allowing them to fully participate as themselves.”
- December 21, 2020 – [NWLC’s amicus brief in *Hecox v. Little*](#)
 - NWLC, the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights, and Hogan Lovells LLP led an amicus brief signed by 60 organizations committed to racial, gender, and LGBTQI+ justice in support of Lindsey Hecox, a transgender college student, and Jane Doe, a cisgender woman high school student, challenging Idaho’s sports ban, which sought to impose a statewide ban on all transgender women and girls. The brief argues that targeting transgender women and girls constitutes sex discrimination in violation of Title IX, and warns that the ban will also harm intersex women and girls, as well as Black and brown women and girls whose bodies are already subject to disproportionate scrutiny.

2021

- March 21, 2021 – [NWLC’s Testimony Opposing South Dakota’s Sports Ban](#)—NWLC opposed South Dakota’s sports ban, which would require K-12 and collegiate athletes to annually document their sex at birth to play on any sex-separated sports team:

- “Banning transgender girls and women from school sports solves none of these urgent problems of sex discrimination. **In fact, as mentioned above, anti-transgender bans have been linked to lower athletics participation by cisgender girls and women and higher rates of sexual assault of transgender girls and women.** H.B. 1217 claims to protect girls and women in sports, but it does the exact opposite by using ‘fairness in women’s sports’ as a cudgel against transgender girls and women—while inadvertently harming cisgender girls and women as well. South Dakota legislators should not let this bill distract them from taking meaningful steps to close the gender and racial disparities in athletics and protect student athletes from sexual abuse.”
- [Sign-on letter urging veto of HB 1217](#)—led by NWLC and signed by 20+ gender justice organizations urging Governor Kristi Noem to veto SD's sports ban:
 - “There are numerous examples of sex discrimination that continues to harm girls and women in sports—including fewer athletic opportunities, second-class facilities and equipment, and sexual abuse by coaches, doctors, and other students—but banning transgender girls and women from participating in sports would not solve any of these problems.”
- October 14, 2021 – [NWLC’s amicus brief in Soule v. CIAC](#)
 - NWLC and Hogan Lovells LLP led an amicus brief signed by 34 gender justice organizations in support of CIAC’s trans-inclusive student athletic policies for Connecticut schools. The brief argues inclusive policies such as CIAC’s are integral to protecting transgender youth’s wellbeing and safety, and vital to ensure that all women and girls can access the benefits of sports participation. The brief also rebuts dangerous myths and stereotypes used to challenge CIAC’s policy, explaining that while there is no evidence that transgender women and girls playing sports harms anyone, research does show that excluding transgender women and girls causes them real harm by perpetuating untrue stereotypes regarding athleticism and gender. Exclusion also deprives transgender women and girls of the well-documented benefits of playing sports, such as improved physical and psychological well-being, improved educational prospects, and the opportunity to be part of a supportive community.
- February 18, 2021 – [NWLC’s Testimony Opposing Iowa’s Sports Ban](#)—opposing two Iowa bills seeking to bar transgender women and girls and nonbinary people assigned male at birth from participating on girls’ and women’s school sports teams.

2022

- March 9, 2022 – [Statement from Women’s Rights and Repro Groups on Texas Trans Youth](#)— led by NWLC and signed by over 100 women’s rights and reproductive rights organizations in support of transgender youth in Texas targeted by Texas officials’ attempt to criminalize evidence-based gender affirming care for transgender youth:
 - “Every day, we work to ensure that all people throughout our nation have access to safe, medically appropriate, and evidenced-based care, and the ability to control their reproductive decisions and lives. We recognize the overwhelming scientific consensus that gender diversity is a natural, healthy part of human diversity. We embrace the mounting evidence that transgender youth can and often do thrive when they are accepted

by their families and communities and, have access to appropriate medical care.”

- April 29, 2022 – [NWLC’s Statement Urging Tennessee Governor to Veto Harmful Anti-Transgender Athletics Bill](#)—supporting veto of a sports ban Tennessee enacted to prevent transgender students from participating in school sports:
 - “SB 1861 is a false solution in search of a problem. Transgender students already live and go to school in Tennessee, and have been recently harmed by the May 2021 anti-trans athletics ban affecting students in grades 5-12. **There has never been any dominance by transgender girls and women in sports in Tennessee, or in states with trans-inclusive policies.** Yet SB 1861 would not only exclude transgender students from sports but would also harm cisgender girls who fall outside stereotypical notions of femininity, simply because they are very tall or muscular, have short hair, wear masculine clothing, or otherwise choose to present in more traditionally masculine ways. Under SB 1861, a cisgender girl could be removed from sports participation because a school official believes that she submitted ‘false or misleading’ documentation about her sex assigned at birth, or simply because she is unable to afford the cost of obtaining a birth certificate or other legal document. Black and brown girls—who are routinely targeted for not conforming to society’s expectations of white femininity—would be especially vulnerable to the gender scrutiny invited by SB 2.1.”
- June 7, 2022 – [Title IX at 50: Gender Equity in Athletics](#)—report by the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education, outlining both the progress and work remaining to be done in the 50 years since the passing of Title IX.
 - The Gender Equity in Athletics issue brief outlines the barriers to LGBTQI+ students accessing the full benefits of sports participation, and makes recommendations for the Department of Education and Congress to fully enforce their rights under Title IX.
- June 21, 2022 – [Fulfilling Title IX’s Promise: Let Transgender and Intersex Students Play](#)—factsheet rebutting the dangerous and false myths used to prevent transgender, nonbinary, and intersex students from competing in school sports consistent with their gender identity:
 - **“If lawmakers actually want to help achieve gender equity in sports, then they must let transgender and intersex athletes play. Banning transgender and intersex athletes from competing only perpetuates inequity and sex-based discrimination in violation of Title IX** by targeting transgender and intersex students, who already face horrific amounts of hatred, violence, and discrimination simply for being who they are.”
- August 2022—NWLC and WSF open coalition letter to President Biden—joined by 48 women’s rights and gender justice advocacy organizations, calling for prompt issuance of an LGBTQI-inclusive Title IX rule on athletics participation:
 - An LGBTQI-inclusive Title IX athletics rule “is especially critical as LGBTQI+ students face pervasive discrimination in school, including sexual and verbal harassment, violence, and excessive discipline by faculty. Compounding this is the barrage of vicious legislative attacks on LGBTQI+ students by state lawmakers across the country, including through recently passed [anti-trans sports bans.] Data shows that such **targeting of LGBTQI+ students can be deadly: these discriminatory policies have exacerbated the high risk of depression and suicidality LGBTQI+ students already face by singling them out for mistreatment.**”

- “Excluding [LGBTQI+] students benefits no one, and that there may be a chilling effect from state policies that reenforce overbroad sex stereotypes, including white-centric notions of femininity and the idea that there is something suspiciously masculine about athletic achievement. **Sports bans often expressly require ‘sex verification’ procedures, which subjects women and girls to a variety of humiliating, invasive, and unscientific practices for the purported purpose of determining whether they are ‘really’ girls or women, creating new risks for sexual abuse of young student athletes** and especially harming women and girls who do not conform to stereotyped ideals about femininity, whether transgender or cisgender.”

- October 26, 2022 – [NWLC leads comment opposing anti-trans Virginia school policies](#)—NWLC led a comment signed by 39 gender justice, sexual assault, and civil rights organizations opposing the Virginia Department of Education’s 2022 model school rules, which would require schools to engage in unlawful discrimination against transgender and nonbinary students.
 - Our comment emphasized the connections between state-enforced targeting of transgender youth and the violence and harm these youth experience, including homelessness, domestic abuse, violence, and sex harassment:
 - “Parents everywhere in the U.S. already have strong and important rights concerning their children’s education, and **the small minority of extremists who claim to be fighting for “parental rights” are, in truth, stoking bias, fear, and baseless conflict between schools and the communities they serve, to score political points.**”
 - “The model policies position ‘permission slips’ as a reasonable gateway to minimal and begrudging tolerance at school for transgender and nonbinary youth. This reflects either intentional cruelty or shocking ignorance of the material risks transgender youth must navigate in a society that is brutally, sometimes homicidally, transphobic. In practice, gender expansive Virginia students running up against the model policies’ barriers to respect and inclusion will be forced to weather all the obstacles of transphobia even as the policies prohibit schools from providing many of the supports foundationally necessary to surviving it.”

- November 11, 2022 – [NWLC’s amicus brief in *A.M. v. Indianapolis Public Schools*](#)—NWLC and Hogan Lovells LLP filed an amicus brief, signed by 58 gender justice organizations, in support of A.M., a ten-year-old transgender girl kicked off her elementary school softball team by Indiana’s anti-trans sports ban. The brief explains that Indiana’s sports ban violates Title IX and the Constitution by targeting transgender girls and young women for discrimination based on sex, and discusses how **Indiana’s spurious arguments in support of discrimination are founded on dangerous and inaccurate stereotypes about athleticism, biology, and gender.** It outlines how bans like Indiana’s harm transgender girls by shutting them out from the well-documented educational benefits of sports participation, which are especially important given their heightened risks for discrimination, harassment, and negative health outcomes linked to social isolation and stigma resulting from anti-trans policies like sports bans.