

TIPS TO TESTIFY

TRANS GIRLS BELONG IN SPORTS

TALKING POINTS

- **Trans students participate in sports for the same reasons other young people do:** to challenge themselves, improve fitness, and be part of a team.
- This policy would deprive student athletes of opportunities available to their peers and send the message they are not worthy of a full life.
- **The proposal raises serious privacy concerns**, including the risk that a transgender student is outed because they cannot participate on a team that matches their gender identity, and that children will be subject to invasive physical examinations outside routine and necessary practice for participation in school sports.
- Any girl who appears “too masculine” or “too muscular” could be subject to rumors, negative social media comments, or calls for investigation. This already happens. **The last thing the State Board of Education should do is provide reasons to hurt students’ self-image.**
- **Trans girls are girls** – and barring them from competing on teams aligning with their gender identity effectively excludes them from participating at all. This jeopardizes their mental health, physical well-being and ability to access education opportunities comparable to their peers.
- **Sports teams can provide opportunities for students to develop numerous physical, social, and emotional skills**, including how to moderate stress. However, this change would jeopardize the mental health of a group of children who are already at heightened risk of trauma and suicide.



Need more information or support? Contact our Advocacy Manager, Moira, at mphyla@ackuak.org

Wednesday, July 26th

8:45am

Join with Zoom link

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- The hearing begins at 8:45am; we recommend you join the Zoom link before 9:15am to get in line to testify.
- Time to speak is limited. Your testimony should be short and directly to the point.
- Make sure you start by introducing yourself and where in Alaska you live. You can thank the Board for listening to public testimony.
- Clearly state that you **OPPOSE** this proposal.

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SAMPLE TESTIMONY

"Hello, my name is [first and last name] and I live in [your city]. I'd like to start by thanking the Board of Education for taking public testimony today. I'm here to testify in **opposition** of the Board's proposal to prohibit trans girls from participating in school sports.

I am opposed to this proposal because it extremely exclusive and harmful to trans girls who want to participate and be part of the athletic community just like their peers. This policy raises significant privacy concerns and I'm deeply concerned that trans girls will be subject to invasive physical examinations outside routine and necessary practice for participation in school sports.

Trans girls are girls – and barring them from competing on teams aligning with their gender identity effectively excludes them from participating at all. This jeopardizes their mental health, physical well-being and ability to access education opportunities comparable to their peers.

Again, I overwhelmingly oppose this proposal and ask the Board to not approve it. Thank you."



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