

Public Comment  
Interscholastic Activities  
Week 4: July 9, 2023 - July 15, 2023

**From:** [Brian P.](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: ATTN: Janelle Andrews: Proposed Regulations Interscholastic Activities  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 5:45:15 AM

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My name is Brian Pike, [REDACTED]

I email to you today with concerns over any allowance of biological males competing in women's sports. Common sense and decency indicate the utter unfairness of allowing such to happen. Quite simply it violates biological women's rights to compete. In addition, it can, and has, caused serious injury resulting from the indisputable physical advantage biological men have over women.

I understand the pressure to be compassionate to children who are confused about their gender and I too have compassion for them. However, violating women's rights, to compete in a fair environment, is not an acceptable solution.

You can protect women and show compassion by creating a third category of sports made for children who feel as though they do not fit into their biological category. Allowing biological males on biologically female teams is dangerous and unfair.

Be bold and lead the way by implementing a third category to assure every child can compete, fairly.

Regardless, protecting biological women/girls must be first.

Sincerely,

Brian Pike

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Alaska State School Board Proposal  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 1:20:55 PM

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Simply put, it is my position that only individuals with XY chromosomal makeup should participate in school sports on boys' teams, and only individuals with XX chromosomal makeup should participate in school sports on girls' teams. Any alternative arrangement is absurd.

Charles B. Dean

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Kai Leddy](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 8:27:54 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,  
Miss Kai Leddy

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Keala Smith](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed School Sports Regulations  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 8:29:52 PM

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To the Alaska Board of Education,

As a mother of a 13-year old daughter in the Matsu School District, I support the proposed school board regulation changes. Thank you for proposing to protect our girls - their privacy, their achievements, and their identity. Our girls have a right to maintain women's sports and a fair chance to succeed. It is difficult enough being a kid and competing against other girls.

I remember middle school as the most difficult time in my childhood and high school being the next. I would assume if this proposed protection for girls did not pass it would open doors for accepting boys in all avenues of girls sports including the locker rooms. In middle school I did not even want to undress in the locker room and shower with other girls, but I had to in order to get a good grade in P.E. I cannot imagine having to undress in front of a boy. To require that would feel like sexual abuse and could be psychologically and emotionally damaging. To normalize this would also put girls at risk for actual physical sexual abuse and decreased reporting because of the culture of society not valuing their privacy and safety.

Middle school and high school sports are challenging enough competing against other girls. I remember coaches giving favoritism to certain girls and those girls would end up being the ones to bully me. Other than those challenges though, I enjoyed sports and having a chance to succeed. I can't even imagine how allowing boys in girls' sports would change that dynamic. Not getting to be the position you hoped for because a male performed better. Trans activists attempt to say it does no harm to girls, but that is just not true. There are many cases of girls who normally would have been top performers and received scholarships for their achievements. Women are tired of working their butts off to be the best and not winning because a biological male beat them. I don't even need to state any examples. They are easy to look up on the internet.

I just want to show my support for this proposal. My number one priority is the safety of our girls.

I fully support this proposal.

Thank you,

Keala Smith

**From:** [Liv Swonger](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** 4 AAC 06 of the Alaska Administrative Code - Public Comment  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 8:34:06 AM

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Deputy Commissioner Heidi Teshner:

Thank you for having a public comment and testimony period to hear the concerns and feedback of your Alaska community. I write to you in **strong opposition** for the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 of the Alaska Administrative Code regarding transgender girls playing in sports. There were 38 testimonies in opposition during the Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA) testimony period earlier this year, and I hope you reject this similar language as they did. Below elaborates why I feel strongly that these regulations would be harmful to our youth, all statistics are from the [The Trevor Project: 2023 U.S. National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ Young People](#).

- According to the [National Federation of State High School Associations](#), which ASAA is a member of, students participating in education-based sports enriches their educational experience, promotes academic achievement, and encourages positive community and school culture. These opportunities should be afforded to all of Alaska's youth.
- **Trans girls are girls.** Assuming anything else is discrimination and not a call that others get to make about someone's identity. The notion that "they can play but on a different team" is exclusionary and invalidating to who they are. In the words of an opposing testifier during the ASAA testimony "People are not remembered for those they exclude."
- We should be fostering protective factors to keep the physical and mental health states of our kids at its best, not stunting their availability of opportunities to learn and grow. Roughly half of transgender and nonbinary young people found their school to be gender-affirming, and those who did reported lower rates of attempting suicide.
- [Per the CDC](#), Alaska has one of the worst suicide rates in the country. 48% of trans girls reported seriously considered suicide in the past year and 16% attempted suicide. These regulations would compound a disparity we already face within the LGBTQ+ community and state.

image.png

Picture: [Suicide Rates by State | Suicide | CDC](#)

- Our governing bodies should be sending messages that our kids belong in public school activities. Nearly 1 in 3 LGBTQ young people said their mental health was poor most of the time or always due to anti-LGBTQ policies and legislation.
- Playing sports in school should be a safe place for Alaska youth irrespective of their diverse backgrounds and experiences. The melting pot of diversity that Alaska is makes us a more beautiful and vibrant community! Fewer than 40% of LGBTQ young people found their home to be LGBTQ-affirming.
- Passing this regulation would invite gender policing, calls for unnecessary investigation, and make our youth vulnerable to bullying and being subject to rumors. 27% of transgender and nonbinary young people reported that they have been physically threatened or harmed in the past year due to their gender identity.
- These proposed regulations raise serious privacy concerns. They could "out" our transgender youth by not allowing them to play on the team that aligns with their gender identity and potentially make them subject to invasive physical examinations outside routine for participation in interscholastic sports.

Thank you and please reach out with any questions!

**Liv Swonger, PharmD (she/her)**



**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Molly Nusbaum](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 10:03:38 AM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,  
Miss Molly Nusbaum

[REDACTED]



**From:** [Alaska Online Public Notices](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Comment on NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES ON INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES IN THE REGULATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 11:22:48 AM


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A new comment has been submitted on the public notice [NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES ON INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES IN THE REGULATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT](#).

**Submitted:**

7/9/2023 11:22:43 AM

John Halverson

  
Anonymous User

**Comment:**

The proposed changes to 4 AAC 06.115(b)(5) are unnecessary and would likely result in harmful outcomes to an already marginalized subset of Alaskan youth. The proposed rule change appears to be based on ideology from the conservative right rather than a need to address an actual problem. I have seen no information provided by supporters of the changes that demonstrates a real need for such a rule. Transgender youth already face significant emotional stress, bullying and an exceptionally high rate of suicide. School sports are an important component of youth development and provide opportunities to create friendships, promote good health, develop team building skills and so much more. Singling out a small group of vulnerable youth that already face extremely challenging emotional and social issues and subjecting them to additional prohibitions and public / social scrutiny runs counter to the goals of public education. The education system should be focused on helping youth develop into informed, high functioning members of society that are able to work together for the betterment of themselves and communities at large. The proposed rule change would further alienate and subjugate a group of at-risk youth in Alaska, while providing no meaningful benefit to the education system. The change is unnecessary and would be harmful.

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You can review all comments on this notice by [clicking here](#).

[Alaska Online Public Notices](#)

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Tonia Blumer](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 8:05:22 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

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The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,  
Miss Tonia Blumer

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Austin Harr](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Monday, July 10, 2023 8:39:58 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I support the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

I have friends and family members in ASD and for their safety I believe this is the right direction. Many girls in high school sports miss out on ranking opportunities and are treated unfairly when trans students are allowed to play in girls sports. I do think they should be allowed to play sports, but they shouldn't be able to decide if they get to play for the boys or the girls. Trans women aren't biological girls so they have a great advantage against biological girls who work every day to be good at their sport. Men are biologically designed different than women and changing what your called doesn't change that.

I hope the school board makes the correct decision.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Austin Harr

[REDACTED]

July 10, 2023

Commissioner's Office

Dept of Education and Early Development

ATTN: Regulations Review

P.O. Box 110500

Juneau, AK 99811-0500

To: Members of the Alaska State Board of Education

Subject: Protecting Young Women's Sports in Alaska

Please support the proposed regulation that will prevent biological males from competing in girls' sports. Any person knows that a male competing against a female in physical sports has a physiological advantage.

In the 1960's there were a series of Title IX Acts/Cases that eventually led to the 1972 Title IX Federal Act. This protection and support for girls in sports is not a 'new' problem.

I urge your support for the girls/young women to be treated fairly in sports.

Laura Heckert

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**From:** [Danika Ulrich](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** BOE changes  
**Date:** Monday, July 10, 2023 5:02:51 AM

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I am voicing my right to urge the board of education not to make any changes to their policies and not adopt the proposed school sports regulations.

Danika Sanders

**From:** [Jackie Ivie](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed changes to Women's athletic programs  
**Date:** Monday, July 10, 2023 10:33:29 AM

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My name is Jacquelyn Goforth. I reside in Palmer, AK. I am adamantly against allowing biological males to compete on any sports field with biological females. There are multiple studies as to the physiology of a biological male versus a biological female. I see no reason to list/quote articles and peer reviewed studies and medical transcripts of facts that are easily researched, but should already be apparent to everyone who studied 7<sup>th</sup> grade biology..

The proposed to direct the Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA), which oversees high school athletic competitions in Alaska, to bar gender-confused biological males from participating in female-only competitions has my full support.

As does the requirement of the ASAA to offer a co-ed division, in which girls could attempt to compete against males if they choose to do so.

No individual school should be allowed to make a "gender determination" regarding a student's sex. Nor should the ASAA be allowed to accept – without challenge – whatever each school determines, which means gender-confused biological males who claim to be female have been allowed to compete against girls. Such a thing flies in the fact of science, history, and common sense.

Thank you

Jacquelyn I Goforth  
[REDACTED]

Anchorage and Fairbanks are the two largest districts that allow for this, while the Mat-Su expressly prohibits biological males from competing on all-girls teams

**From:** [K N Goodrich](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Upcoming Decision about Trans Athletes  
**Date:** Monday, July 10, 2023 2:25:34 PM

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Sirs—

I am writing to strongly oppose rules which ban trans athletes from competing on teams which align with their chosen genders. The point of school sports is not to “win” but to learn cooperation, inclusiveness and team spirit. Demonising members of a team can only end badly. I also disagree with any proposed rules which separate trans athletes from bathrooms or locker rooms that align with their chosen genders. Trans children are already going through a tough time trying to define themselves and sorting out a healthy future. Stigmatising them with these proposed rules can only make their process harder and may cause overwhelming damage (leading even to suicide). The average family in Alaska has shared bathroom facilities which are used by all members of the family, male and female. That should be the standard for these sports facilities.

Sincerely,

K N Goodrich

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** [LAURA HECKERT](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Laurie Heckert](#)  
**Subject:** Protecting Girls" Sports  
**Date:** Monday, July 10, 2023 9:07:51 AM

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Dear Members of the AK State Board of Education,

Please support the proposed regulation that will prevent biological males from competing in girls' sports. Any person knows that a male competing against a female in physical sports has a physiological advantage.

In the 1960's, when I was in was in High School, there was much discussion/concern about girls having the same advantage/rights in sports that was afforded to the boys. (Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964). In 1972 it became a Federal Act. This is nothing new.

Thank you for your support in protecting females in this situation.

Laura L. Heckert

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Lindsey Banning](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Let our kids play! Protect privacy, health, and bodily autonomy!  
**Date:** Monday, July 10, 2023 1:19:55 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

Everyone, regardless of gender identity, expression, and/or sex should be able to participate in sports safely and without prejudice. The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers. We are not talking about elite athletes. We are talking about CHILDREN and if we are focused on protecting CHILDREN that means protecting TRANS CHILDREN too.

To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team. Trans girls are not the problem. Transphobia is. If you truly care about equity and justice in sports, focus on uplifting marginalized groups who have been prevented access and stop attacking them.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Lindsey Banning

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Mindy Phillips](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Monday, July 10, 2023 10:37:56 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

It is vital for trans kids to be included. They are needed and valued in our community and we want to see them involved in the sports that align with their gender identity.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Mindy Phillips

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Faust Cotton-skinner](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Monday, July 10, 2023 1:25:32 PM

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Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team. Just let everyone have rights, we are all human, stop controlling people for fun.

Sincerely,  
Na Faust Cotton-skinner

[REDACTED]

# Representative Rebecca Himschoot

Angoon, Craig, Edna Bay, Elfin Cove, Hollis, Hoonah, Hydaburg, Kake, Kasaan, Klawock, Kupreanof, Naukati, Pelican, Petersburg, Port Alexander, Point Baker, Port Protection, Sitka, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay & Yakutat

## *Session*

Alaska State Capitol  
120 4th Street  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 465-3732  
(888) 461-3732  
**Rep.Himschoot@akleg.gov**



## *Interim*

201 Katlian Street Ste 103  
PO Box 844  
Sitka, AK 99835  
(907) 747-4665  
(877) 747-6276  
**Rep.Himschoot@akleg.gov**

June 6th, 2023

Alaska Dept. of Education & Early Development  
PO Box 110500  
Juneau, AK 99811-0500

Members of the State Board of Education & Early Development:

First of all, thank you for your willingness to volunteer on behalf of Alaska's students. It takes time, and board service is often thankless work, so I want to express my appreciation. Additionally, I am pleased to see the board meeting outside of Juneau, Anchorage, or Sitka. It would be wonderful to convene the board in even more remote communities, to allow more Alaskans the opportunity to provide input and meet board members in person.

A critical foundation of our democracy is public input. Whether the input is through testimony on a topic, or through a ballot box, our system is informed by the people it serves and, as such, our system very much relies on sound public process. Thank you for taking my testimony.

On the July agenda item addressing "proposed changes on interscholastic activities," I would like to offer this testimony.

In a review of the steps that have led to your consideration of new regulations that would apply to every student in Alaska, I would like to remind you of the following timeline.

In the 32nd Legislature, SB 140 failed to pass in both legislative years. In the current, 33rd legislature, HB 27 failed to receive a hearing. Both of these bills contain language similar to the language of the State Board's resolution 02-2023.

As a reminder, the State Board passed Resolution 02-2023 at the March meeting. To be absolutely clear, this item was added to the agenda the morning it was considered, with no prior notification to the public, effectively preventing interested parties from providing their input on this important topic. While this may fall within the bylaws of the State Board, it does not reflect good public process.

In a meeting in my office the day after the resolution was passed, Chair Fields responded to my concerns about this process by telling me resolutions are "non-binding," and the item had been added at the request of a board member at the last minute. Again, I question the board's commitment to sound public process in considering and then passing this resolution.

So, to arrive at the current moment, our State Board ignored the failure over three years of legislative attempts to pass legislation through a rigorous committee and public input process when a resolution was added to the board's agenda at the last minute in March, preventing public input. As a result of this "non-binding" resolution, the Alaska Student Activities Association considered a change to their by-laws in the following months, and the Department of Education and Early Development has proposed regulations for consideration and adoption. These organizations clearly interpret "non-binding" differently than Chair Fields.

# Representative Rebecca Himschoot

Angoon, Craig, Edna Bay, Elfin Cove, Hollis, Hoonah, Hydaburg, Kake, Kasaan, Klawock, Kupreanof, Naukati, Pelican, Petersburg, Port Alexander, Point Baker, Port Protection, Sitka, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay & Yakutat

## *Session*

Alaska State Capitol  
120 4th Street  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 465-3732  
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**Rep.Himschoot@akleg.gov**



## *Interim*

201 Katlian Street Ste 103  
PO Box 844  
Sitka, AK 99835  
(907) 747-4665  
(877) 747-6276  
**Rep.Himschoot@akleg.gov**

This leads to the heart of the matter: what is driving the board to seek these changes? The purpose of public process is to solve the problems of our state and our communities in a way that elevates Alaskans and improves our quality of life. Most locally elected school boards have already created policies regarding the issues the State Board's resolution seeks to address, and, moreover, there is no clear sense of a need to address these issues in the first place. I challenge the board to produce even one example of harm caused by transgender athletes in Alaska.

I would like to remind you all that many states elect their state boards, others have both appointed and elected seats. Alaska's board is solely appointed – none of you has endured the public scrutiny of earning your seat through an election. The board has made great strides in areas important to the state through your continued commitment to Alaska's Education Challenge. Creating the Education Challenge involved input from hundreds of Alaskans over hundreds of hours and is therefore representative of the will of the people, and I commend you for your steadfast commitment to the goals of the Challenge.

Again, thank you for serving, and I look forward to the board returning focus to the very real needs of our schools and students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Rebecca Himschoot".

Representative Rebecca Himschoot  
House District 2  
Alaska State Capitol

**From:** [Ruth Dickerson](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protecting Girl's Sports  
**Date:** Monday, July 10, 2023 7:04:53 PM

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My friend wrote the following - and I can't say it any better, so I am repeating her comments

Please support the proposed regulation that will prevent biological males from competing in girls' sports. Any person knows that a male competing against a female in physical sports has a physiological advantage.

In the 1960's, when I was in was in High School, there was much discussion/concern about girls having the same advantage/rights in sports that was afforded to the boys. (Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964). In 1972 it became a Federal Act. This is nothing new.

Thank you for your support in protecting females in this situation.

Ruth Dickerson

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Teal Heidenreiter](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Monday, July 10, 2023 10:42:25 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

There is no sense in making a ruling that ostracizes a very, very small and already vulnerable population of students. Furthermore, there is no solid, unbiased, scientific evidence that supports the theory that transgender girls have a significant advantage in sports compared to their cisgender counterparts. Alaska already has absolutely abysmal mental health statistics in regards to young adults and children, ESPECIALLY when it comes to our LGBTQ+ children. Passion legislation and regulations that only alienates our transgender students further will result in even worse mental health struggles for them. Transgender girls deserve to feel welcomed, safe, and part of their community. Forcing them to participate on teams that do not reflect who they are will deny them a source of healthy activity, a place to socialize, and deny them a sense of belonging.

ALL children should matter in Alaska. ALL children should have the opportunity to have a fulfilling childhood. ALL children should be able to grow into happy, healthy, and well rounded adults. This INCLUDES transgender children, and specifically transgender girls, who are often unfairly targeted. Show that you care about ALL children and DO NOT pass this regulation change.

Sincerely,  
Mx. Teal Heidenreiter

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Jeana Varney](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 11, 2023 6:08:56 AM

---

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CAUTION: This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports. Trans men and women deserve the same equal and equitable rights to participate in sports with their peers. Do not set Alaska back by approving these regulation changes. Let the people of Alaska see and know that you support ALL Alaskans in the school system.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Jeana Varney

[REDACTED]



**From:** [Leslie Swonger](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Proposed Regulations for Trans Girls in Sports  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 11, 2023 9:47:44 AM

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Commissioner Teshner:

This email is regarding my **strong opposition** to the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 of the Alaska Administrative Code, preventing transgirls from playing in competitive sports on the team that aligns with their gender identity. All of our Alaska youth deserve to feel accepted and validated without compromising their access to team activities and social experiences (e.g., sportsmanship, leadership, team dynamics) that playing sports provides.

Thank you for your time!

-Leslie Swonger

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Maria Paez](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Transgender girl in sports  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 11, 2023 8:08:12 PM

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I am writing to oppose the ban on transgender girls participating in girls' sports teams. For one thing, we do not have widespread examples of transgender girls outcompeting cisgender girls in high school sports. For those who say that we are being proactive, I would say that transgender girls have been around for years. Gender affirming care has been around for years. If transgender girls competing in sports was an actual issue, we would have many examples of transgender girls outcompeting cisgender girls by now. Instead of this ban being proposed because of an issue facing girls competing in Alaskan sports, this ban has been proposed based on prejudice and fear mongering.

Second, this ban is being proposed with seemingly no plan for how to actually implement it. How does the DEED propose that sports teams will verify if girls are cis or transgender? Does the DEED plan to punish students or coaching staff who violate this ban? For transgender girls who received gender affirming care at a young age, no one would know that they were ever transgender by the time they reach high school. Because of this, verifying that transgender girls are not competing in girls sports would require verifying that every girl on a girl's sports team was assigned female at birth. This would likely require verifying the birth certificates or medical records of all female athletes, leading to more bureaucracy on the part of coaches and sports team administrators, which is the last thing they need. Even if the DEED deemed that all this is necessary, transgender girls and their parents could simply refuse to sign off on giving access to their medical records and birth certificates. In this way, unless schools want to ban girls who don't give access to their most private medical records from competing in sports, there is no way to ensure that no transgender girls are competing on girls sports teams.

Lastly, when I was in high school, I participated in girls' sports as a cisgender girl. I would have had no problem competing against transgender girls, especially if it meant that they would feel less stigmatized. For me, competing in high school sports was more about participating than winning. I think many high school athletes, except the most elite, share this sentiment. I would bet that if you asked most high school girls in Alaska, they would have no problem competing against transgender girls.

Thank you for your consideration.

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Melissa Dowell](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 11, 2023 6:24:01 AM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Additionally, this goes against best practices for medical care and mental health care for the students and teaches children nothing but bias.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Melissa Dowell

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Sarah Goetz](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 11, 2023 10:06:38 AM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

IF YOU WANT TO PROTECT CHILDREN HOW ABOUT YOU REGULATE GUNS, THE NUNBER 1 KILLER OF CHILDREN.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Sarah Goetz

[REDACTED]



Governor Mike Dunleavy  
STATE OF ALASKA

July 12, 2023

Board of Education and Early Development  
P.O. Box 110500  
Juneau, AK 99811-0500

Dear Chair Fields and Members of the Board of Education and Early Development,

I write in support of the proposed amendments to regulations ensuring the fairness, safety, and equal opportunity for biological female students participating in interscholastic activities. School sports have been an enriching activity for countless Alaskans that promote student health and wellbeing. They are a vital part of Alaskan students' educational experience, and I hope that our competitive sports continue to be a valuable part of the school experience for Alaskans for generations to come.

First, I must acknowledge the difficulty of the decision before you. Board of Education decisions are primarily based on objective facts and data. Yet the purpose of regulations on interscholastic activities is to "provide a procedure that enables school districts to promote and govern interscholastic activities effectively, economically, and *fairly*, while keeping those activities in their proper perspective educationally" (4 AAC 06.115 (a), emphasis added).

Reasonable people can agree or disagree if a situation is fair or not. Presently, this is the position in which our society has found itself as it relates to transgender athletes in women's sports. However, the scope of the proposed regulations before you consider *competitive fairness*. Fortunately, in this area there is considerably more clarity.

Sports in Alaska have been organized for competitiveness. This is evidenced in the classifications and divisions in the regional organization that exists within the Alaska School Activities Association. Competitive sports in Alaska have various categories of competition with appropriate classification criteria. In sports like football and basketball, schools are placed in different divisions based on the size of the school population. In the case of wrestling, the athlete's weight is used to further clarify fair competition. Additionally, Title IX provides guidance for the establishment of different teams for boys and girls to provide more students the opportunity to compete fairly. Competitive sports classifications have effectively ensured fair competition among Alaskan student athletes for decades.

Furthermore, when sports classifications are competitively fair, they are also safer, particularly in contact sports. While all activities carry some risk, the risk of injury in sports is increased when

an athlete is matched up with an opponent who is considerably larger, stronger, or faster. Every competition features some differences in the physical abilities of the competitors and the rules of every sport minimize the risk of injury. However, the changes that occur during puberty amplify the physical differences between male and female. Genetics cannot be changed. Because of this, transgender athletes in girls' sports are significantly more likely to create physical disparities that increase the risk of injury to the smaller athlete.

Paramount to Title IX, the Biden administration has proposed changes to Title IX regulations regarding student eligibility for athletic teams. The State Board's proposed regulation supports Title IX's nondiscrimination requirement as it focuses on high school sports. In line with the Biden administration, the State Board recognizes that for older students, including high school children, sex-related criteria can be used to determine participation eligibility if the criteria enable the school to achieve fairness in competition as it is an important educational objective. I applaud the careful consideration the Board has taken in your proposed regulations as they are in concert with both the letter and the spirit of the law.

It is important that the State Board adopt such regulations to ensure that the boundaries of fair competition are applied consistently across the Alaska. Strong local control in education ensures that Alaskan communities have the most influence over how their schools operate. Nevertheless, interscholastic activities are not confined within one school district. 4 AAC 06.115 describes the authority the Alaska School Activities Association has in establishing common rules and regulations for school activities within parameters set by the Department of Education and Early Development. The proposed regulation is a necessary and appropriate parameter to ensure fairness, safety, and equal opportunity for female athletes.

As you may know, some media coverage of the proposed regulation has mischaracterized it as prohibiting transgender students from sports. It is unfortunate that the regulations you have proposed have been misrepresented. I appreciate that the State Board seeks to clarify the classifications for which a high school student is eligible to compete, and that no transgender student in Alaska will be or should be prohibited from participating in school athletics due to this regulation.

In closing, one suggestion that I have is in replacing the language "females who were assigned female at birth" with "biological females." This change would better align the regulation's language with the K-12 Science Standards for Alaska.

Thank you for taking such an important step for Alaska's students in approving regulations that ensure the fairness, safety, and equal opportunity for all students, including biological female students, participating in interscholastic competitive sports.

Sincerely,



Mike Dunleavy  
Governor

**From:** [Silversurfer Angela G. Birt](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Silversurfer Angela G. Birt](#)  
**Subject:** Protect Girls Sports  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 5:38:51 PM

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I am a woman who benefited from Title IX and know the years of effort it took to get women/girls parity in sport. Now men (dressed as girls) are taking away the rights of girls to be safe from exposure to male genitalia in locker rooms, to be safe from injury from stronger biological males in team sports and relegating women and girls to lower positions in achievement because men and women are biologically different. I support legislation to protect girls sport and keep it restricted to just real female athletes.

Angela G. Birt  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Alaska Online Public Notices](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Comment on NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES ON INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES IN THE REGULATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 9:03:33 PM

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A new comment has been submitted on the public notice [NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES ON INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES IN THE REGULATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT](#).

**Submitted:**

7/12/2023 9:03:28 PM

B. Taylor, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Anonymous User

**Comment:**

I support the proposed action as written. We are a military family and my daughter benefited from school sports from elementary through high school in nearly a half-dozen states. She learned teamwork, personal responsibility, humility in victory and grace in defeat. She didn't have males in the locker room or the playing field or court upending the fairness of the competition.

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You can review all comments on this notice by [clicking here](#).

[Alaska Online Public Notices](#)



**From:** [Bob Bird](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Girl's Sports  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 2:44:44 PM

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I am a radio sports broadcaster for KSRM in Kenai/Soldotna. I call hockey, baseball, football and basketball games. I am calling to support efforts to keep politics OUT of Girl's sports and support legislation that keeps biological males from entering girl's athletics.

"Transgenderism" is a madhouse farce and will be seen as the laughingstock of history someday. The fact that ASAA has to delay in making this common sense decision demonstrates that the problem lies in the intimidation tactics of the Left.

With best wishes for the return of common sense,

Bob Bird

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Brenna McCarthy](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 11:26:13 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Brenna McCarthy

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Britton Goldberg](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** 4 AAC 06.115(b)(5) proposed change comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 5:02:52 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

I support the proposal to protect biological females by the proposed change of 4 AAC 06.115(b)(5)

Thanks,  
Britton Goldberg

[REDACTED]  
Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

**From:** [Bruce](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Girl's sports  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 1:44:44 PM

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I support the proposed regulation as written.

Bruce Graham  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [carlene blacketer](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Regulation to prohibit transgender males 2 females.From participation in girls sports.  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 3:26:17 PM

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I support the proposed regulation as published.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [dlanderson](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Girls Sports Activity  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 9:10:01 PM

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I support the proposed regulation as published.

Chris Anderson

**From:** [Chris Towne](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** K12 Girls' Sports  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 9:48:16 PM

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To Janell Andrews:

I do not support biological males competing in K12 girls' sports in the state of Alaska. This is a complete abomination of women's sports and is an unfair advantage to women who have worked hard to compete at the highest level for women's sports. Please listen to your constituents and your heart on this matter. We all know that it is not fair and not acceptable.

Sincerely,  
Christopher J. Towne

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Colleen Peterson](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES ON INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES IN THE REGULATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 2:34:21 PM

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Please keep biological males out of girls/women sports.  
I fully support the proposed regulation as published.

Thank you,

Colleen Peterson  
[REDACTED]



**From:** [Diana Kuest](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#); [Andrews, Janell L \(EED\)](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on Proposal of Changes to Interscholastic Activities Notice Now Open for Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 3:12:09 PM

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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## NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES ON INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES IN THE REGULATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT:

My response and comment to the change is to keep sports, teams and participation in female sports to biological female at birth as those participants only

Males to remain in male sports, teams and participation should be for biological males at birth for those male sports only.

Participation on application should have the birth certificate as one of the valid qualifiers for strict adherence to the regulation.

Diana Kuest, [REDACTED]

**From:** [Donald Bullock](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Supporting Female Athletes  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 6:39:15 PM

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I support the proposed changes to 4 AAC 06.115(b)(5) limiting participation in separate high school athletics teams for female students in competitive or contact sports to females who were assigned female at birth.

Participation and support for female supports is based on the range of abilities possessed by humans born without a Y chromosome. The development of a female human's physical attributes differs from those born with a Y chromosome in muscle strength and geometry of bone structure. Sporting activities should be separated in most sports by sex at birth and not a person's self perception of something they are not. Females should not be forced to share locker rooms, bathrooms, and other changing rooms with males masquerading as females. Male and female genders are recognized at birth with very few physical exceptions. Gender is determined by observation and not self-identification.

One change I would make is to change "assigned" to "identified" at birth. Assignment sounds more subjective than identification. In the case of the gender of a newborn, identification is a better description of the gender to be memorialized on the birth certificate.

Accordingly, I support the adoption of the proposed changes to 4 AAC 06.115(b)(5) to ensure the preservation of female sports and to protect the privacy of female athletes.

Thank you.

Donald Bullock Jr.



**From:** [Donna Millwood](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Girls sports  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 5:30:22 PM

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Why is it you never see trans men try to participate in a trans women's sports? The obvious answer is that the trans man would not win against a trans woman.

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Alaska Online Public Notices](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Comment on NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES ON INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES IN THE REGULATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 8:29:21 PM

---

A new comment has been submitted on the public notice [NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES ON INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES IN THE REGULATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT](#).

**Submitted:**

7/12/2023 8:29:12 PM

Dustin Richmond  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Anonymous User

**Comment:**

I support this legislation as it is currently written. Only females assigned females at birth should be allowed to participate in girls competitive or contact sports.

---

You can review all comments on this notice by [clicking here](#).

[Alaska Online Public Notices](#)

**From:** [Eric Cousino](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on Proposed Change to 4 AAC 06.115(b)(5)  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 4:47:21 PM

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Dear Office of the Commissioner,

I support the proposed regulation as published.

Eric Cousino

[REDACTED]

*“Of all tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. It would be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron’s cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end for they do so with the approval of their own conscience...”*

- C.S. Lewis

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

**From:** [Fred Villa](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Memo of Support  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 4:02:50 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Commissioner,

I support the proposed regulation as published to ensure that participation in sports designated for girls/young women in the school system be based on their biological birth gender and not be opened to transgendered, otherwise sex-altering or any other self-identified gender designations.

At the root of Title IX law was the safety, equity, and fairness to females with the intent that implications were applied to biology and not personal desires. Please use wisdom in your recommendations to the State Board of Education and do not succumb to the social/political pressure of those who wish to skirt common sense in an effort to create a new norm based not on natural science but a false reality rooted in misplaced genetic, hormonal, and psychological manipulation.

Respectfully,

Fred Villa

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Gayle White](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Girls Sports 4 AAC 06.115(b)(5)  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 3:42:11 PM

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Please keep girls sports for biological girls. It is patently unfair to ask young girls to share locker rooms with biological boys and to have to play in the same league with them. Girls sports should be saved for girls alone. You can set up mixed leagues for transgender children and those who would like to join such leagues, but leave the girls teams alone. I support the proposed regulation.

Thank you.

Gayle White

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** [Glen Osteen](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** On!y biological females in female sports  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 3:55:13 PM

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I support the rule by the ASAA as written.



**From:** [Hope Derkevorkian](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support of Resolution 02-2023  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 10:11:15 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am writing you today to express my support for resolution 02-2023.

I support this resolution because I do not believe biological males should be competing in women's sports. The statements below list why I believe this.

- 1) **Biological Differences:** Boys and girls experience distinct physiological variances during puberty, resulting in dissimilarities in strength, speed, and overall athletic performance. These inherent differences provide a rationale for maintaining separate sporting categories, ensuring fair competition based on physiological equality.
- 2) **Level Playing Field:** Middle and high school girls' sports were established to create equal opportunities for female athletes and promote fair competition. The inclusion of competitors who were boys at birth can create an imbalance in the playing field, which undermines the purpose and safety of separate women's competitions. This discrepancy may deter female athletes from pursuing sports due to decreased chances of success.
- 3) **Safety Concerns:** Physical contact and collisions are inherent in many sports. Given the biological differences between boys and girls, allowing boys to compete in women's sports may increase the risk of injury for female athletes. The safety and well-being of athletes must be a top priority and ensuring that sports remain gender-separated can help maintain a safer environment.
- 4) **Scholarship and Career Opportunities:** Many female athletes rely on scholarships and professional careers in sports to further their education and pursue their athletic dreams. The inclusion of boys in women's sports could potentially reduce the number of opportunities available to female athletes, as boys may dominate competitions and garner scholarships or professional contracts that were originally intended for women.
- 5) **Title IX Compliance:** Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 was implemented to promote gender equity in educational programs, including sports. Allowing boys to participate in women's sports may raise concerns about Title IX compliance, as it could diminish the number of opportunities available to female athletes, undermining the spirit of the legislation

Thank you,

Hope Derkevorkian  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Jennifer Wagner](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** public comment on the issue of transgender girls participating in sports  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 12:40:18 PM

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To the State Board of the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED):

I write to voice my opposition to the Board's proposed amendment to exclude transgender girls from participating in girls' sports at school. I am a 26-year Alaska resident, and have two children that attended public school in Anchorage and participated in sports. I was a three sport athlete in high school, including swimming and track. I firmly believe that the proposed amendment is harmful to transgender students and does nothing to meet the purported goals of equity and safety. Cis-gender students may also be harmed by this because they might have to "prove up" their gender. The proposed rule does nothing more than carry into our schools the "them v. us" fear that is driving our political and social lives in this country. Leaders in our community purport to want to bring people together, support all students' achievement and diminish the divisiveness that exists in our country. This amendment is in direct contradiction to those goals. There was a quote from the upcoming student board member in the newspaper recently, and his comment relays my thoughts on this topic better than I can express on my own. Felix Myers, the rising senior from Sitka who begins his tenure as the yearlong student representative on the board next month stated the following:

"We have not seen this be an issue in Alaska," Myers said. "And there's a reason for that. If you have talked to trans students, if you know these kids, they are in fear of competing in athletics, because of the vitriol, because of the harassment, because of what they face if they are put into that situation. And everyone knows — they face it from adults, they face it from their peers, they face it from their competitors."

Myers told fellow board members it was "an embarrassment" for an unelected board to take action on a politically divisive issue, rather than leaving it to the Legislature.

"This is just delegitimizing what incredible work this board is capable of doing," said Myers. "For us to delegitimize all of that work by focusing on a tiny culture war issue that is not a real issue, but does in fact hurt and delegitimize what the students of this state are going through being trans in a country that does not love them — is below us."

I hope the Board reconsiders its decision and votes down the proposed amendment.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Wagner

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [John OBrien](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Girls are Girls and Boys are Boys. I support the proposed regulation as published. Thanks!  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 5:15:16 PM

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John Obrien



Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** [Katy Ruff Soden](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to proposal to limit transgender girls in sports  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 2:32:18 PM

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State Board of Education members,

I am an Alaska resident and parent of two school-age daughters who play sports. I am writing to oppose any changes to state regulation limiting participation in girls' sports to only those athletes assigned female at birth. This proposal unfairly targets and harms transgender girls, who are indeed girls and should get to play on the sports teams associated with their gender. This proposal seeks to solve a problem that is not in fact a problem - there is no widespread participation of transgender girls in girls sports, nor have cisgender girls lost opportunities to participate in sports because of transgender students. Instead, this proposal violates the privacy of every girl athlete in our state. It also needlessly and cruelly impacts transgender students, who experience some of the highest rates of abuse and suicidality. Sports should be a joyful, healthy outlet for all students - not just cisgender students. I urge you not to adopt the proposal to amend 4 AAC 06.115(b)(5).

Thank you for your consideration.

Katy Soden  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Ken](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Girls sports4girls  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 3:19:03 PM

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I support girls sports for biological girls only. A fair compromise would be a 3rd category for trans athletes. Locker rooms and shower areas for biological sex only.

Ken McCormick  
Registered Alaskan voter

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Lenna Funk](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Female Athletes  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 11:45:12 AM

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I support proposed changes to the interscholastic activities regulation which preserves high school female sports and limits participation to only girls who are female at birth. This is the only fair way to conduct our high school sports programs!

**From:** [Lindsey Hannevold](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** ADMINISTRATIVE CODE4 AAC 06 TO PROTECT GIRLS SPORTS  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 1:37:48 PM

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To the Board,

I am a parent of 2 born female athletes who compete in Wrestling, basketball, track ,and soccer.

I feel it is necessary for you to designate born females compete with born females and born males compete with born males.

Having transgender females compete with born females is dangerous, unfair and just wrong in many ways.

#1 Women have worked hard in their years to have their own place in sports. allowing trans. females to compete with the born females is taking away from the work us women have done to protect our sports. It would be like all the work women have done means nothing and devalues true born women.

#2 Allowing trans women to compete is unsafe. There are significant differences in the body of a trans female and a born female. Muscle mass, strength, stamina, the list goes on.

#3 The safety in the locker room. THE ladies need to feel safe in the locker room and sharing with a trans female is not safe. It puts not only the born females at risk but also the trans females at risk in the locker room.

#4 Travel and overnight trips. THIS puts a lot of questions out there. Usually when the girls travel a female adult must accompany the girls if the coach is male. How do you take care of the trans athletes' needs in this situation? It could put your chaperones in bad situations as well.

Please consider our Born Female athletes. To have their positions taken from them because of a trans athlete is utterly unfair and wrong.

Thank you,  
Lindsey Hannevold



**From:** [Martin Hartley](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Girls  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 6:05:56 PM

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I support the bill stopping biological males from competing in girls athletics.

Sincerely,  
Martin Hartley

**From:** [Megan Hawkins](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Preserving High School Girls Sports  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 12:29:04 PM

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Hello,

My experience in women's sports has been extensive and defining. I wouldn't change my experiences competing in competitive swimming across the state for anything. My parents introduced my sister and me to competitive swimming at an early age, and we competed competitively across the state from 5 to 18. Both my sister and I excelled in competitive swimming in Alaska. My sister went on to be a D1 collegiate athlete and eventually became captain of the swim team her senior year. I competed at every state swim meet during my high school career and various other high-level swim meets. Swimming at a competitive level and participating in women's sports instilled crucial values in my life that I would not have learned elsewhere. It taught me how to persevere, teamwork, camaraderie, and determination, among many other things. Participating and competing in women's sports at the state level were defining and incredibly positive experiences, one which I hope my children will also be able to experience in the future. I urge the district to preserve women's sports in our state by allowing only girls who are female at birth to participate. With that said, I support proposed changes to the interscholastic activities regulation which preserves high school female sports and limits the participation to only girls who are female at birth. Women's sports (where only girls who are female at birth participate) provide so many incredible opportunities to our female youth, please play a part in preserving this.

Thank you,  
Megan Hoen

**From:** [Pam Swanberg](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Girls' sports-  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 5:24:21 PM

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Janell Andrews,

Please, I implore you to keep girls' sports for biological girls only.  
Thank you for being reasonable and doing what is right for our girls.

Praying for wisdom to prevail.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Alaska Online Public Notices](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Comment on NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES ON INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES IN THE REGULATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 5:12:43 PM

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A new comment has been submitted on the public notice [NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES ON INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES IN THE REGULATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT](#).

**Submitted:**

7/12/2023 5:12:37 PM

Paul F Karczmarczyk  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Anonymous User

**Comment:**

I support the proposed regulation as published.

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You can review all comments on this notice by [clicking here](#).

[Alaska Online Public Notices](#)

**From:** [Richard Derkevorkian](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Resolution 02-2023 support  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 10:07:07 PM

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Hello,

I am writing you today to express my support for resolution 02-2023.

I support this resolution because I do not believe biological males should be competing in women's sports. The statements below list why I believe this.

- 1) **Biological Differences:** Boys and girls experience distinct physiological variances during puberty, resulting in dissimilarities in strength, speed, and overall athletic performance. These inherent differences provide a rationale for maintaining separate sporting categories, ensuring fair competition based on physiological equality.
- 2) **Level Playing Field:** Middle and high school girls' sports were established to create equal opportunities for female athletes and promote fair competition. The inclusion of competitors who were boys at birth can create an imbalance in the playing field, which undermines the purpose and safety of separate women's competitions. This discrepancy may deter female athletes from pursuing sports due to decreased chances of success.
- 3) **Safety Concerns:** Physical contact and collisions are inherent in many sports. Given the biological differences between boys and girls, allowing boys to compete in women's sports may increase the risk of injury for female athletes. The safety and well-being of athletes must be a top priority and ensuring that sports remain gender-separated can help maintain a safer environment.
- 4) **Scholarship and Career Opportunities:** Many female athletes rely on scholarships and professional careers in sports to further their education and pursue their athletic dreams. The inclusion of boys in women's sports could potentially reduce the number of opportunities available to female athletes, as boys may dominate competitions and garner scholarships or professional contracts that were originally intended for women.
- 5) **Title IX Compliance:** Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 was implemented to promote gender equity in educational programs, including sports. Allowing boys to participate in women's sports may raise concerns about Title IX compliance, as it could diminish the number of opportunities available to female athletes, undermining the spirit of the legislation

Thank you,  
Richard Derkevorkian  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [sfaulkner](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Transgender  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 1:36:34 PM

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**No such thing as transgender. Each has their own bathroom.**

Sent from my Galaxy

**From:** [Sam Barber](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protecting girls and women's sports  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 7:13:40 PM

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Ms. Andrews

It is hard for me as a father of 4 girls to see the degradation of girls sports or better said the exploitation of girls sports by biological males.

It is hard to see something that woman fought so hard for to be put on a path to equality in scholarships and organized sports that are exciting to watch and most of all competitive and uplifting.

It is also sad to see something that Ted Stevens was so passionate about making available and rightly so to girls and women.

I support the proposed regulation as written

Thank you for your time.

Sam Barber

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** [Scott Swanberg](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 9:27:52 PM

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I support the proposed regulation as published.  
It is inconceivable that biological males should be allowed to "identify" as female then dominate female sports.  
Thank you.



**From:** [Shana Cardoza](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Alaska State regulation protecting girls from transgenders in sports  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 3:37:57 PM

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Please pass the rule to protect our girls in sports and the locker rooms. Having a high school daughter that competed in swimming and track a locker room is meant to shower, use the toilet, change clothes to uniforms and visa versus. It becomes a violation when a male is present. So many young girls at this time in life are very sensitive to their bodies.

My daughter was a senior in high school, having competed in track for four years, she was competing in her last event, the 100 girls event, when a boy, who wanted to be identified as a girl, showed up at the state track meet. ASAA, not sure what to do, and NO pre thought to the other girl athletes, parents, and coaches, allowed him to race. He raced in her event against young athletes that had worked so hard on their own for this event. Most of them working for college scholarships.

Please protect our girls.

Thank you for consideration,

Shana Cardoza

**From:** [Stacey Tolar](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Ban Transgender from Girl's Sports  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 9:09:16 PM

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I support banning transgenders from girl's sports. The only gender that should be participating in girl's sports are those persons who were born female.

**From:** [Therese Lewandowski](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Transgender participation in sports  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 10:43:22 AM

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Dear Board Members,

Being 66 years old it's a ways away from my time in jrhi/hs sports but I still recall how easily intimidating it all was. A very sensitive and formative time, as you all know.

I believe many of our hateful and violent dissensions in society could be nipped in the bud during these years if kids could be taught, could be shown, that accepting everyone for whatever they are is normal. It seems after kindergarten kids instead learn to segregate, form cliques, intimidate and bully.

There are many sizes and shapes in both sexes. I read in the KP Borough Assemblyman Derkevorkian's Resolution to adopt the Governor's recommendation that boys are more muscular, have larger body mass and are therefore stronger than girls. I don't agree. Can you imagine being in the same high school playing against Brittney Griner?

According to the Alaska Beacon article - "If adopted, the effect of the new regulation would be to prohibit transgender girls from participating on girls sports teams; transgender boys would be allowed to participate on girls or boys teams." If this does get adopted it should go both ways.

Establishing a transgender team also seems nonsensical as that would need multiple teams around the state for them to compete in. According to the numbers of transgender youth, that just wouldn't happen. We currently have co-ed sports. Let's just leave it at that.

I urge you to NOT adopt this policy. Let it alone. Let these kids play the teams they and their family's believe they should play accordingly. It is likely the kids will be accepted, maybe let them decide.

Peace,  
Therese Lewandowski  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Tim Deal](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fairness  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 7:00:37 PM

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Girls verses girls. NOT boys posing as girls. If a transgender person wants to compete it needs to be in a separate class. Boys verses boys, girls verses girls. How is this even an issue?

Tim Deal

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Wayne Houtcooper](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Changes to Interscholastic activities regulation  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 6:50:53 PM

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I support proposed changes to the Interscholastic Activities regulation which preserves high school female sports and limits participation to only girls who are female at birth. I also support actions that ensure fairness, safety, and equal opportunity for female athletes.

Sincerely,

Dr. Wayne C. Houtcooper, Ph.D.  
Retired Professor of Science  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Will Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Cc:** [William Johnson](#)  
**Subject:** Girls Sports, Biological Girls Only  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 5:22:43 PM

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I support the concept of only girls playing in girls sports, for safety and basic fairness to biological girls to give them a chance to win.

Thank you,

Will Johnson  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Aaron Seaver](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 5:39:25 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports. Let kids play sports full stop. I mean my god, are trans suicide rates not high enough that you feel the need to make some ghoulish attempt to raise them further. Remember that you are actively contributing to the deaths of these children if you follow through with this.

Sincerely,  
Mx. Aaron Seaver

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Alexandria Sharp-McCormick](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Girls sports  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 4:29:47 PM

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I truly believe that girl/women sports are for only biological females. Locker rooms are for biological females only. Competitions are in categories of biological females only. No matter what gender a person thinks they are the truth is in the DNA. All human beings are born male or female. There is unfair advantage when a male competes in a woman's sport.

Alexandria D Sharp-McCormick

Resident and voter of [REDACTED] AK since 1979



**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Allegory Smith](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy: let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 6:01:24 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

There is a time and place for discussion about the nuances of hormones and their impact in competitive athletic performance, and now, under threat of further discrimination and exclusion, is not one of them.

Sincerely,  
Mx. Allegory Smith

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Amanda Allard](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 12:35:40 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

It is discriminatory and harmful as it outs people, and causes further separations and barriers that do not create an inclusive environment.

Sincerely,  
Miss Amanda Allard

[REDACTED]

**Andrews, Janell L (EED)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of Amanda Lyon  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 1:27 PM  
**To:** Commissioner, DEED (EED sponsored)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

This type of regulation dehumanizes transgender persons and implies acceptance of bullying and other forms of discrimination.

In 2015, 77% of persons who were identified as transgender experienced mistreatment such as harassment or assault in K-12 schools and 17% had such severe mistreatment that they left school.

Reference:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftransequality.org%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fdocs%2Fusts%2FUSTS-Executive-Summary-Dec17.pdf&data=05%7C01%7Cdeed.commissioner%40alaska.gov%7C22fa6dc363af47aca83408db83e7f24c%7C20030bf67ad942f7927359ea83fca38%7C0%7C0%7C638248804613848440%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjA%7CwMDAiLCJQljojV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=yDVTxMFhKZ2ypD0lJr8MOQmkJ38O8fQ%2FF9uY8iJwBkU%3D&reserved=0>

Sports participation can have many academic, psychological, and physiological benefits for all who participate. I encourage you to consider how harmful this policy is for students who are already vulnerable and at risk.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Amanda Lyon

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Ann Crane](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect female sports  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 10:12:05 PM

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I support the Board of Education's proposed regulation to prevent transgender biological males from participating in female sports.

Ann Crane

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Anna Bosin](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 6:02:44 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

Yet again I am writing to oppose ridiculous actions by the Board of Education preventing Alaskan youth from playing sports. Excluding trans youth is cruel and will isolate these children from their peers.

Trans youth already have a high rate of suicide- forcing trans youth to expose their genitals to prove their biological sex in order to do sports is over-the-top harmful.

Stop being a BULLY and instead, focus on real education issues such as teacher retention, Alaskan suicide prevention, school capital improvements and transportation, and student curriculum that readies them for life as adults.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Anna Bosin

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Beau Obrugewitch](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Proposed Changes to Interscholastic Activities  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 11:50:01 AM

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Good morning,

I am writing to express my support for the Proposed Changes on Interscholastic Activities in the Regulations of Department of Education and Early Development. Specifically, I support protecting girls' sports by restricting participation in girls' sports to girls that were born girls. Keep boys and men out of girls' sports!

Thank you,  
Beau Obrugewitch  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Bridget Maryott](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 6:05:43 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

Subject: Inclusion and Equality: Trans Students Deserve a Place in Sports

Dear Alaska Board of Education,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

I write to you today with deep concern and a heavy heart regarding the proposed policy change that would bar transgender girls from participating in girls' sports teams. As an advocate for inclusivity, equality, and the fundamental rights of all individuals, I implore you to reconsider this unjust and discriminatory proposal.

Alaska has a proud history of embracing diversity and fostering an inclusive community. It is disheartening to witness the administration pushing forward a policy that runs counter to these principles. Let us not forget that the strength of any society lies in its ability to empower and uplift all its members, regardless of their gender identity.

Transgender girls are girls. Their identity is valid, and they deserve the same opportunities as their cisgender peers. Sports play a crucial role in the physical, mental, and emotional development of students. By denying transgender girls the chance to participate in girls' sports teams, we are effectively shutting them out of a transformative experience that promotes teamwork, discipline, self-confidence, and a sense of belonging.

The argument against allowing transgender girls to participate in girls' sports often centers around concerns about fairness and competition. However, it is important to note that policies exist to ensure fair competition, such as hormone regulations and eligibility requirements, which are designed to maintain a level playing field. Singling out transgender girls is not only discriminatory but also perpetuates harmful stereotypes and exclusion.

Let us consider the emotional toll this policy change would have on transgender youth. Adolescence is a time of self-discovery, and participating in sports can provide a supportive environment where transgender students can develop a positive self-image and forge lasting friendships. By stripping them of this opportunity, we risk isolating these young individuals, causing them unnecessary pain and distress.

It is vital to remember that the overwhelming majority of Alaskans have consistently rejected the idea of excluding transgender girls from girls' sports teams. The public hearings serve as a testament to the collective voice of the community, which has spoken loudly in favor of inclusivity and equal treatment. It is disheartening to witness these voices being disregarded in favor of a policy that goes against the principles of fairness, equality, and human rights.

It is essential to highlight that implementing such a policy would likely be unconstitutional. It could potentially violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, which guarantees that all individuals are entitled to equal treatment under the law. Alaska should not invite legal challenges that waste precious resources and only serve to deepen the divisions within our society.

I urge you to listen to the heartfelt voices of the people you serve, to stand on the right side of history, and to reject this alarming and unconstitutional proposal. Transgender students deserve the same opportunities and benefits that participation in sports brings, and by fostering inclusivity, we strengthen our communities and create a better future.

for all.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Bridget Maryott





**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Carol Thompson](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 6:23:39 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports. Although probably well-intentioned, this bill is not necessary for cis students, and instead is harmful to trans students. Please do not create one more barrier for trans students to live the life they envision.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Carol Thompson

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Danika Sanders](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 12:06:56 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Danika Sanders

[REDACTED]

**From:** [David Jones](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on proposal regarding biological males competing against females in high school sports  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 2:37:01 PM

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**Dear Commissioner,**

As a parent and a former military advisory member of the State Board of Education, I unequivocally support the proposal to ban biological males from competing against females in high school sports. I have three daughters and three sons and a wife who played collegiate soccer. I have personally witnessed the undeniable physical advantage biological males possess over biological females. Men are, as a group, just naturally stronger and faster than women and therefore hold an unfair advantage when competing against them in athletics. This is not a “sexist” position (my wife and three daughters will tell you the same thing), it is simply a matter of biology. My entire family has, at various times, competed in a variety of “co-ed” sports (soccer, softball, volleyball, flag football, etc.) and each one of them will tell you that while there are some female athletes who can compete head-to-head with males, they are by far the exception to the rule. This in no way diminishes the athleticism or achievements of female athletes, it is, as I said before, simply a matter of biology. Males are built differently than females with, generally speaking, more muscle mass and overall size. It is GROSSLY Unfair to allow biological males to compete with females. Regardless of any “measures” or “procedures” which a male has undergone to feminize his appearance or physique, or how he may profess to “identify” his gender, his DNA and at least the vast majority of his biological underpinnings are still male. For the same reasons we would never allow a high school varsity athlete to compete against a sixth-grader (the CLEAR advantage the bigger athlete would possess), we should not allow biological males (who possess clear advantages over females) to compete against females. It flies in the face of logic and reason and unfairly discriminates against female athletes who dedicate years of their lives training and practicing their skills only to face someone who brings an unnatural advantage to the match. To allow

**biological males to compete against females in athletics is, simply put, sexual discrimination against females. Regardless of what some people would like to believe, there is a difference between males and females and each gender, as identified at birth, should be given the right to have separate and distinct opportunities to succeed in athletics.**

**Respectfully yours,**

**Colonel (Retired) David T. Jones**



**From:** [David Prince](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 8:39:47 AM

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Protection Biological Girls in Sports

Please implement the proposed regulations that will prevent biological males from competing in girls sports.

Activists are seeking to allow biological boys the right to compete against girls in sports. This is not only unfair to the girls, but immoral as well. I feel young women should have the right and legal protections to compete against other young women.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Respectfully, David A Prince,

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** [Dave Rutz](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for reg banning males from competing in female sports  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 10:25:39 PM

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I am emailing to voice my support for the proposed regulation banning biological males from participating in female division sports, activities and being allowed access to female-only areas including locker rooms, showers & restrooms.

My wife & daughter both competed in inter-scholastic sports in Alaska at the middle & high school levels. If they were forced to compete against biological males, they would not have had the same opportunities or experiences. Forcing girls to compete against males is wrong. We all know the physiological differences between males & females. We all recognize the safety issues with regard to serious physical injuries. We all recognize the safety & privacy issues violated by allowing males into female-only spaces. If any male follows my daughter or wife into a women's locker room or restroom, I will be right behind them.

I'm assuming you all have girls/women in your life that you care about. We all do. And we are counting on you to take a stand to protect them from this ridiculous movement.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,  
David Rutz

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [david song](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 2:48:12 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Sincerely,  
mr david song

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Donna Clemence](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Transgender girls in girls sports  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 12:13:42 PM

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A born male should NOT BE ALLOWED IN GIRLS SPORTS, LOCKER ROOMS OR BATHROOMS! .It would destroy young women from even trying..why would they..most boys can out perform girls in nearly every sport.. THATS WHY THEY HAVE GIRLS AND BOY SPORTS TO BEGIN WITH!  
as far as locker rooms and bathrooms..that's just immoral. If transgenders want to play sports, fine, they should stick to ther born gender teams or form a separate team for strictly transgender..I can't even believe this is a discussion..it truly is plain and simple.



**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Emily Sousa](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 11:45:47 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports. Trans students want what any other students want - safety and freedom of opportunity - the ability to play sports, make friends, and be welcome members of their schools. There is no data which supports banning trans kids from participating in sports, but plenty of research that shows the immense benefits to trans youth when they are welcomed as themselves and invited to participate. Please do the right thing and support trans youth in Alaska. Please oppose the regulation changes to 4 AAC 06.

Sincerely,  
Mx. Emily Sousa

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Emma Park](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 12:36:31 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Sincerely,  
Mx. Emma Park

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Eunice Zech](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 2:54:57 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports. It is well known that trans girls often have less testosterone than girls who are not trans. There is no moral nor medical reason to inflict harm to these young women simply because of who they are. Especially just based on political bias and bigotry. The generation of hateful and hate filled old biddies clutching their pearls are a dying breed and thankfully so. This will just end up in court, it will cost the residents of the state even more money for an issue that is not really an issue Please reject this nonsense and perform your duties to the people of the state.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Eunice Zech

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Felix Thompson](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 11:46:47 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports. All kids deserve to play sports on the team that they feel comfortable on.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Felix Thompson

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Ginger Drais](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 6:37:21 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I strongly oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports. This proposed change is from the dark ages and is heinous, exclusionary to a group of already marginalized youth. It is an embarrassment to me that the current governor of Alaska is behind this. Trans children and adults have one of the highest rates of suicide. It is time for inclusion, not exclusion!!!

Sincerely,  
Ms Ginger Drais

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Jennifer Wehrmann](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 3:27:01 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Jennifer Wehrmann

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Jennifer Wehrmann](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect trans kids  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 3:25:37 PM

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I deeply oppose any measures that discriminate or prevent trans kids from practicing or participating in any activities that align with their gender identity. Trans kids deserve the same rights as any child and should be welcomed. Allowing trans kids to participate promotes inclusivity and acceptance. Doing so otherwise promotes exclusion, seclusion and depression.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Wehrmann  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Joclyn Reilly](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 2:36:37 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports. As a social worker and a parent, I am astonished at the attempt to ban trans students from girls' sports.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Joclyn Reilly

[REDACTED]



**From:** [John Trueblood](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Safety  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 7:22:06 PM

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I agree with the resolution to preserve opportunity, safety, fairness for athletes.

Thank you,  
John Trueblood

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Katie Yako](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 5:11:58 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Katie Yako

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Kristin English](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 3:24:43 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

This effort does not promote diversity or tolerance. Everyone in a public school should be welcomed and accepted, and instead this proposal marks students as being less than. Some back up their arguments for this proposal with religion. But doesn't the Bible teach kindness above all?

Please consider the harm this will do to transgender students. Is it worth risking increasing the risk of even one suicide?

The world is changing and it requires increased acceptance on everyone's part.

Let's not make the school environment one where certain students are singled out.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Kristin English

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Norm Carson](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Girls Sports  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 1:09:05 PM

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Dear Commissioner: I adamantly support a regulation that limits participation in girl competitive sports, be it team or individual, to biological at birth females only.

Thank you—

Larry N. Carson

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Mae Marsh](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support of Amendment  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 3:53:16 PM

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Public Comment regarding:

Register \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ 2023 EDUCATION AND EARLY DEV. 1 4 AAC 06.115(b)(5) is amended by adding a new subparagraph to read: (D) ensures fairness, safety, and equal opportunity for female students in high school athletics by providing, in consideration of responses to a school survey under 4 AAC 06.520, that if a separate high school athletics team is established for female students, participation shall be limited to females who were assigned female at birth; in this subparagraph, "athletics" means competitive or contact sports, as determined by the association. (Eff. 6/26/94, Register 130; am 8/2/97, Register 143; am 5/4/2000, Register 154; am \_\_/\_\_/\_\_\_\_, Register \_\_\_\_ ) Authority: AS 14.03.015 AS 14.07.060 AS 14.18.050 AS 14.07.020 AS 14.18.040

My name is Mae Marsh and I am a resident of Fairbanks, Alaska. I am a retired Equal Opportunity Director, Title IX Officer, Title IX Coordinator, and Title IX Investigator.

I am writing to support this amendment and include a recommendation.

The rationale buttressing my support is as follows:

- Equality for women in sports is guaranteed under Title IX.
- Title IX is based on sex.
- Sex is biological. Sex is not a decision made by doctors at birth. Sex is not a social construct, it is not fluid, and it is not on a continuum.
- Sex is binary - there are only two sexes - male and female. Hermaphrodites or intersex individuals consist of 0.018% of all humans.
- The two sexes compete in separate competitive or contact sports because there are biological differences in size and strength which could result in physical harm.
- Gender refers to one's internal sense of being and is a social identity.
- Gender is fluid and currently refers to 72 separate social identities. • Biological males who transition use hormones and/or surgery in an attempt to alter their social presentation to reflect their internal sense.
- Language is important and conflating the terms 'sex' and 'gender' creates confusion in the application of the law.
- Additionally, incorporating the concept that sex is assigned at birth blurs the lines because that is a concept that is related to gender.
- Allowing biological males who chemically and/or surgically transition to a different 'gender' to compete in female sports robs females of opportunities for college scholarships, corporate sponsorships, and status.
- Allowing biological males who chemically and/or surgically transition to a different 'gender' to compete in female sports violates the intent of Title IX, which is to ensure equality in sports based on sex.

**Don't blur the lines**, I recommend this amendment read as follows:

Register \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ 2023 EDUCATION AND EARLY DEV. 1 4 AAC 06.115(b)(5) is amended by adding a new subparagraph to read: (D) ensures fairness, safety, and equal opportunity for female students in high school athletics by providing, in consideration of responses to a school survey under 4 AAC 06.520, that if a separate high school athletics team is established for female students, participation shall be limited to **biological** females ~~who were assigned female at birth~~; in this subparagraph, "athletics" means competitive or contact sports, as determined by the association. (Eff. 6/26/94, Register 130; am 8/2/97, Register 143; am 5/4/2000, Register 154; am \_\_/\_\_/\_\_, Register \_\_) Authority: AS 14.03.015 AS 14.07.060 AS 14.18.050 AS 14.07.020 AS 14.18.040

Mae Marsh



**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Melody Bechberger](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 12:50:54 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

the proposal poses privacy risks 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 proposal is unconstitutional and incredibly harmful to young Alaskans.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Melody Bechberger

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Michael Flint](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 11:58:23 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports. It's awful, hateful, and we will not go back to the 1960s. Shameful.

Sincerely,  
Mr Michael Flint

[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Olivia Emery](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 2:58:48 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I am writing to you today because I strongly oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

LGBTQ youth deserve to feel safe, seen, and supported at school. There are often so many children who only have the support of their peers and good teachers and staff. Being a kid is already so hard and sometimes as adults and parents we can forget the pressures of those times and feel that maybe they're just not as important because we have "more pressing problems" than we often feel children/teens do. The reality is kids do get put in situations every day where they don't feel safe and are bullied for things so small from what you wear or how you do your hair to things that are entirely out of their control like discrimination of being part of marginalized communities like race, being LGBTQ, language barriers or being disabled make going through this chapter of life so much harder. During these fundamental years for kids I would hope that our most important role in these children's lives is to provide them with all of the resources to have a healthy and happy future and that to me is ensuring their mental health is cared for with the best of intentions. When we encourage discrimination in our schools we are putting children's mental health and their safety at risk. It has taken such a long time to build these safe spaces for those who identify as LGBTQ but especially our youth in schools and seeing these very small but loud groups applauding the discriminatory treatment of LGBTQ youth here in Alaska is beyond greatly disappointing and heartbreaking. I have two children myself one currently in the school district and one who will be soon entering. While I am a mother and haven't been in school myself in a little while I have not forgotten what it feels like to be bullied or cast aside by some students and even some teachers who did not care or want to understand me or some of my peers and that was even at a time when I felt some progress had been made to years past. We seem to be going back into the dark ages in some ways and it is so disheartening. I wish nothing more than for all children not just my own to feel safe, cared for, seen and given every opportunity to have an uplifting and enriching environment at school. To be quite honest the more I hear and see these things I am not as proud as I was to be an Alaskan. I ask you and those involved in this decision to look at your younger self in your most vulnerable moment and ask what you would've needed or maybe even a family member or friend who has felt the pain of knowing they weren't accepted or cared for based on something they cannot change about who they are. To think about the students who cry themselves to sleep wondering what they did wrong by simply existing and trying to be their most authentic selves; not forcing an agenda as some say, not being hateful or harming anyone just looking for some compassion and the ability to be who they are. These kids deserve to feel safe and they should be treated with respect and not be made to feel alone or judged for just trying to be themselves. I sincerely hope you hear this message with a mothers love not just for the future of my kids but for everyone's kids now and going forward.

I thank you for your time and consideration and hope that you and those involved in this decision impacting every child here in our schools in Alaska find it in your hearts and minds to dig deeper and think about the kids who are feeling a little more scared or alone in the wake of this news.

Sincerely,  
Mrs Olivia Emery

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Peggy Beck](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect Females in School Sports Teams  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 10:31:05 AM

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PLEASE SUPPORT the proposal to prohibit biological males who identify as female from competing against high school girl athletes. There are teams for males, females and co-ed ... Title 9 was created to protect girls/women .. and boys who identify as girls can compete in co-ed teams.

Peggy Beck [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Richard Newton](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 3:02:07 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Richard Newton

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Sara Chapell](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 12:22:55 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

While I'm using a form to submit my comments, please know that my beliefs on this issue are personal.

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports. I believe trans girls should have the opportunity to play on sports teams that align with their gender identity.

I'm concerned that the Dept of Education is tackling a hot button issue that has not raised concerns on the local level. Parents aren't asking for this change. Students are asking for this change. School Districts have had no part in requesting a rule change.

In fact, I think you would find that most school districts far prefer retaining the local control that exists today. Each district has the power and authority to clarify their own rules about who is qualified to play on their sports teams.

Local districts are best suited to make these decisions because they know their students, and are set up to solicit and respond to local input.

For instance, several years ago in Haines, a transgender student wanted to participate on sports teams. She had been living as a girl for several years, but was new to the district. School administrators were able to confirm her gender identify confidentially, and work to ensure that her privacy was protected. Isolated concerns about locker room protocols from some families were calmly discussed and accommodations were made for alternate changing areas when needed.

The Haines athlete participated on multiple sports teams while she was in high school, and recently returned to town to attend a family event. She remembers the respectful, supportive environment that Haines officials created.

I do not know of a single instance in Alaska when a trans girl spoiled another athlete's chances of getting into college or competing at a higher level after high school. I do know that up until now Alaska's core principles of privacy, independence and personal autonomy have served us well. Let's keep it up. We don't have to follow the herd of anti-trans activism. Let's stick with our values, and support all students in their desire to be successful, healthy and happy.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Sara Chapell

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Stacy Thomas](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 2:48:13 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

First off, it's incredibly sexist, as the ruling is in regards only to female athletes who were assigned male at birth. There is no concern stated about athletes were assigned female at birth competing in men's sports. This comes from a sexist misogynistic position that being born with a penis makes someone inherently a better athlete.

If this were true, then the top position in every women's sport would be held by a transgender woman. That's not the case. If it were true, it would also stand that there couldn't possibly be any trans men at high levels of their sports. I would implore you to look up the names Bobbie Hirsch, Kye Allums, Ness Murby.... AndTeam USA 2016 World Championship participant Chris Mosier.

There are also several small scale studies that have sampled hormone levels of female athletes, and found that many of the top participants already have slightly elevated testosterone. We don't exclude Michael Phelps from competing because he was found to have improved lactic acid removal from his muscles and that makes him a better athlete. We also don't bar cis-gendered athletes from participating because they have low testosterone and take supplementation to manage their condition.

We also don't have any laws that indicate what sports team intersex people must participate in. You can absolutely have intersex people whom were assigned one gender at birth, yet they still have the internal gonads of a different gender. In fact, since being intersex is as common as being redhead, it is very likely that we have multiple intersex athletes throughout Alaska's high schools and colleges. We do not know their current hormone levels, nor has anyone ever cared. All evidence point to this proposed ruling strictly being a political stunt and an attack on people who were assigned male at birth, despite being a woman.

It is an attack on women.

Sincerely,  
Ms Stacy Thomas

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Alaska Online Public Notices](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Comment on NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES ON INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES IN THE REGULATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 12:16:51 PM

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A new comment has been submitted on the public notice [NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES ON INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES IN THE REGULATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT](#).

**Submitted:**

7/13/2023 12:16:46 PM

Steve Templeton  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Anonymous User

**Comment:**

I support the proposed change to regulation 4 AAC 06.115(b)(5) to protect female athletes and female sports in Alaska.

Sincerely,  
Steve Templeton

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You can review all comments on this notice by [clicking here](#).

[Alaska Online Public Notices](#)

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Timothy Benson](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 2:40:59 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports. Trans women are women and the few instances of trans people participating in sports and having an unfair advantage are anecdotal at best. This is not as prevalent as a problem as people make it out to be.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Timothy Benson

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Todd Lance](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** attention: Janell Andrews  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 11:06:44 AM

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Greetings Janell,

I ***support*** the proposed regulation to prohibit transgender males-to-females from participating in girls' sports activities.

Thank you,

Todd E Lance



**From:** [Y Sumner](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Girls Sports  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 9:15:13 PM

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**July 13, 2023**

**Dear Commission of Education and Early Development,**

**Please do not allow biological males to play in girls' competitive sports in Alaskan Schools. This is not a gay rights issue, it is not a transphobia issue, it is quite clearly a Woman's Rights issue. Over the last 100 years women have fought hard to have equal recognition in sports. Finally, this dream has come to fruition. Women can receive scholarships, sponsorships, and accolades in sports. However, in most sports women have little chance of winning against men. Men are simply larger with more muscle mass. We can all recall when Russian and East German female athletes were disqualified from the Olympics for taking performance enhancing male hormones. Allowing biological males to compete in girls' sports will deny many women who have no other means to attend colleges from receiving scholarships and attaining economic security. Allowing biological males to compete in girls' sports, especially in contact sport will endanger biological female students. As far as this being anti-Gay, many women star athletes are lesbians. These women were welcomed into their sports, yet they would have been denied their achievements, recognition, and careers, if they had been forced to compete against biological men.**

**The current huge spike in Gender Dysphoria reflects a fad or fashion, not a natural occurrence. We do not need to steal opportunity from our daughters, to facilitate a self-destructive fad.**

**Sincerely,  
Yvonne Sumner**

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Adalea Wyckoff](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 9:51:19 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Adalea Wyckoff

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Crystal](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Alaska State Board of Education Regulation Protecting Girls in Sports  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 12:52:47 PM

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You don't often get email from akhoffman@gci.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Board of Education,

Women have fought for so long to make a name for themselves in women's sports and in life. Thank you very much for taking the proposed action to protect young women in Alaska. We must recognize that allowing biological males to compete against biological females in athletics will create a system in which biological females will be once again dominated by biological males in the athletic arena. I fully support this regulatory change that will protect young women on the playing field and in the locker room.

Sincerely,

Crystal Hoffman  
907-903-8332

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Danielle Cooper](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Res 02-2023  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 2:39:29 AM

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Hello,

I am writing you today to express my support for resolution 02-2023.

I support this resolution because I do not believe biological males should be competing in women's sports. The statements below list why I believe this.

1) **Biological Differences:** Boys and girls experience distinct physiological variances during puberty, resulting in dissimilarities in strength, speed, and overall athletic performance. These inherent differences provide a rationale for maintaining separate sporting categories, ensuring fair competition based on physiological equality.

2) **Level Playing Field:** Middle and high school girls' sports were established to create equal opportunities for female athletes and promote fair competition. The inclusion of competitors who were boys at birth can create an imbalance in the playing field, which undermines the purpose and safety of separate women's competitions. This discrepancy may deter female athletes from pursuing sports due to decreased chances of success.

3) **Safety Concerns:** Physical contact and collisions are inherent in many sports. Given the biological differences between boys and girls, allowing boys to compete in women's sports may increase the risk of injury for female athletes. The safety and well-being of athletes must be a top priority and ensuring that sports remain gender-separated can help maintain a safer environment.

4) **Scholarship and Career Opportunities:** Many female athletes rely on scholarships and professional careers in sports to further their education and pursue their athletic dreams. The inclusion of boys in women's sports could potentially reduce the number of opportunities available to female athletes, as boys may dominate competitions and garner scholarships or professional contracts that were originally intended for women.

5) **Title IX Compliance:** Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 was implemented to promote gender equity in educational programs, including sports. Allowing boys to participate in women's sports may raise concerns about Title IX compliance, as it could diminish the number of opportunities available to female athletes, undermining the spirit of the legislation.

I have young children and I don't want them having to fight these battles when they are of school age. It's important that clear rules and boundaries are set now.

Thank you,

Danielle Cooper



**From:** [Eileen Becker](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Regulation regarding men completing against women  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 1:58:12 PM

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Dear Alaska Board of Education , Please have the courage to stand up for women in our state. Please pass the regulation to protect all sports in Alaska schools against the mentally deranged male athletes who want to compete with women. Sharing locker rooms and bathrooms goes against all forms of decencies. Thank you, Dave & Eileen Becker. [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Dave Peck](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Boys & Girls Sports & Gender  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 8:57:06 AM

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I'm writing to support keeping boys & girls sports separate by biological sex in school activities. To keep a fair playing field this is necessary.

And as far as school locker rooms/showers, these again should be separated by biological sex for boys & girls.

Thank you,  
Dave Peck

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Diane Heaney-Mead](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose proposed changes to interscholastic activities  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 1:00:21 PM

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Good afternoon,

I'm writing to express opposition to the proposed changes to interscholastic activities that would restrict the ability of transgender girls to participate in sports. I believe the intent behind it is discriminatory and that it would fail to advance fairness, safety, and equal opportunity for students.

As far as I'm aware there is only a single student that is being targeted by this legislation and it is my understanding that they are not dominating their sport. This is consistent with the finding throughout the world that transgender women compete at a comparable level to women assigned female at birth. There is clearly not a need for this change but it coincides with increasing partisan anti-transgender fear and bias.

I'm assuming the thought behind the legislation is that individuals assigned male at birth have higher testosterone and bone density than those assigned female and that they therefore pose a threat and have an advantage over their peers. If this is the intent then the regulation fails to address that concern. There are numerous conditions that lead people to be assigned the wrong sex at birth or may give them advantage/disadvantages of the opposite sex. Arbitrarily including or excluding these students will lead to legal challenges that the State will not be able to defend. Note that many athletic organizations have been able to have transgender women participate in sports and that these concerns are often unfounded.

I object to the regulation change because it contradicts itself. It states that it is trying to advance equality but it does this by excluding a class of students who have historically been marginalized and attacked. It is laughable that a handful (or a single student in this case) poses any meaningful threat to women's sports.

The primary reasons that I hear people supporting this regulation change are bigoted and discriminatory. They revolve around the false narrative that transgender girls are actually men and that their motive for transitioning is so they can win at sports, and out their peers in the lockers. It's ludicrous.

The "fair" solution that has been proposed is to have transgender girls participate on the men's team. This forces transgender girls to out themselves if they want to participate in sports and opens them up to assault and harassment (like it would for girls assigned female at birth).

Simply put this regulation change is not necessary, it is dangerous, it is unconstitutional and should be rejected.



Thank you,

Diane Heaney-Mead



**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Esther Smith](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 1:34:46 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Sincerely,  
Mx. Esther Smith

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Fredrika Prince](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** All kids are created equal! Reality!!  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 2:30:45 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Fredrika Prince

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Grant Hunter](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protecting athletic opportunities for biological females  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 3:10:43 PM

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Respectfully request that you support all measures to protect athletic opportunities for biological females.

Biological gender is a function of the anatomy at birth.

No person possessing a male sexual/reproductive organ should be allowed in the locker room for biological females.

There should be one category for biological males and one category for biological females.

There should then be a separate open gender category that does not take into account biological gender.

Grant W Hunter

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



Virus-free [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [HEATHER FERNSTROM](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 12:01:47 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

I believe students should feel welcome and safe while participating in physical education. They should be allowed to play on the team that matches their gender identity. To ban a child who identifies as a female from participating on a female team is discrimination. This proposal could easily lead to violations in privacy as well as create a hostile environment for children of any gender.

Sincerely,

Ms. HEATHER FERNSTROM

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Jim Weber](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** ONLY GIRLS IN GIRLS SPORTS  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 6:17:52 AM

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I strongly and with every fiber in my body disagree with ACLU-AK, Planned Parenthood of Alaska, and some notable state legislators, Sen. Loki Tobin leading the charge to allow transgender "females" to participate in K12 girls' sports.

**Forcing girls to mix with boys in sports is EVIL , just as EVIL as these groups and the state senator are in all arenas. NO TO TRANSGENDERS**

Jim Weber  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [John Trueblood](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fair  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 3:25:52 PM

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I agree with the resolution to preserve opportunity, safety, fairness for athletes.

Thank you  
John Trueblood

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Joshua Knicely](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 8:41:55 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

The data clearly shows that transgender women do not have an unfair advantage over cisgender women. Transgender people represent about 1% of the population, meaning about 1% of women are transgender, so - if all things really are equal - we would expect 1% of the victors in women's sports to be transgender women. That's not what we see. If transgender women had an unfair advantage, then we would expect to see more than 1% of women's trophies going to transgender women. That's not what we see. What we actually see is that far far less than 1% of victors are transgender. Until more than 1% of those women's trophies are being won by transgender women, this isn't about making sports fair, it's about dehumanizing transgender people, which is step one of the white supremacist's playbook.

As more concrete examples, consider Lia Thomas or Glenique Frank. Glenique Frank is a transgender woman that ran in the London Marathon. Conservatives like to bring up that she beat 14,000 women; what they choose to omit is the fact that she placed 6,159th, placing her well in the middle for someone with decades of running experience. Lia Thomas is a professional swimmer. Prior to transitioning, she was 10 seconds behind the men's world record for her particular event; after transitioning, she is now 10 seconds behind the women's world record. That seems like exactly what we would expect if this was fair.

These attacks on trans youth are nothing more than white supremacy. That's the only logical conclusion I can draw because that's what the data indicates - because that's exactly where the nazis started. Adolf Hitler once called Dr. Magnus Hirshfeld "the world's most dangerous Jew." Do you know why? Because he studied transgender people with compassion. That was it. That was all it took to make him the most dangerous person as far as the nazi reich was concerned; treating transgender people with compassion.

Which is pretty stupid considering how long transgender people have existed. Transgender and non-binary people predate the christian religion. They're talked about in ancient Sumerian culture, ancient Babylonian, ancient Mesopotamian, ancient Indian, ancient Japanese, in ancient maori, ancient aboriginal, native hawaiian, native american, and native alaskan cultures, again all of which predate christianity.

Causing harm to transgender people - which is exactly what this ban would do - is just the next step in the white supremacist playbook.

If it's the goal of the Alaskan Education system to push white supremacists ideals, then support this regulation.

If y'all want to push ideals like equality, freedom of choice, and personal liberty - you know, supposedly American ideals - then please stop this hate based regulation.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Joshua Knicely

[REDACTED]



**From:** [Julie Sharp-Dahl](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Regulation protecting women's sports  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 6:47:49 AM

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I support the proposed regulation! We need to keep women's sports women's sports.

I wasn't allowed to play sports in school as a kid because I was a girl and there weren't any. So I asked to play sports with the boys and was told no because I "was a girl". The ridiculousness of even talking about boys playing in girls sports enrages me and most other athletic women I know!

Julie Dahl  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [kate Wedemeyer](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 10:58:22 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

Dear Commisioner Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports. Because transgender youth make up less than 1% of the population and an even smaller portion of children who sign up for sports, please discard and vote down the proposed regulation.

The proposed action does NOT pertain to or protect the majority of children BUT adds to further negative impacts to the mental health of transgender AND other children who are learning about their own personality and gender identification. Actually, it does have negative impacts to normal children because it presents danger for their normal growth and inquiry and intellectual questioning and learning skills.

Kate Wedemeyer

Sincerely,

Ms. kate Wedemeyer

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Kaytlin McAnelly](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Female Sports  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 2:55:26 PM

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Hi my name is kaytlin mcanelly, I am going into my senior year at SoHi and am a four sport varsity athlete. I participate in cross country, wrestling, basketball, and track. I have competed in sports all my years of middle school and High school. Forcing girls to compete against boys in sports is not fair. Boys are physically different and are not the same as girls. When males compete against females, males have an advantage. Males tend to be stronger, faster, and more athletic. One example of the difference between the performance of a male versus female is this past years division 1 cross Country state championship. The winner in the boys division ran a 16:13, the winner in the girls division ran a 19:16. That is a 3 minute difference in the 5k time of a male vs female High school athlete. If the winner of the girls division competed in the boys division she would have gotten 74th place out of 80 people. Another example of the difference between boys and girls is the SoHi basketball teams. The girls varsity team scrimmages the boys c team, often the boys c team beats the girls varsity because boys are physically different. The boys can run faster and jump significantly higher than the girls team. These are just a couple example of how much different boys and girls are. If you looks at any results from sporting events you will see how much faster the boys are. Having girls compete against boys would be extremely unfair. Allowing males to compete against females would wipe out women's sports. Women would not have the opportunity to succeed in athletics if they competed with boys. There are female sports and male sports for a reason and it should stay that way, if someone is born a male then they compete in male sports while if someone is born a female they compete in female sports. Even if this issue isn't prominent in our community right now if we wait until it is it will be too late. It isn't right to take sports away from girls. If this does not go through then girls will not have the same opportunities as boys and will no longer have scholarship opportunities and achievements like they deserve.

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Kyle Mielke](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 5:30:05 AM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Kyle Mielke

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Lakiya Baker](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 9:19:10 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Lakiya Baker

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Leif Simcox](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Transgender Public Comment  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 9:18:03 AM

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Sir, this letter to the editor at ADN expresses my view about transgender girls and high school sports.

The public comment period is due to end on July 21 about a rule effectively barring transgender girls from high school sports. I encourage everyone, especially parents, to weigh in on this matter by sending an email to: [deed.commissioner@alaska.gov](mailto:deed.commissioner@alaska.gov)

The impetus for this bill has come largely from our right-wing governor and the radical right in the Mat-Su valley, who have already passed a similar bill. Why are they doing this, and why now? It is highly doubtful that any of the Mat-Su parents who were shaking their fists and screaming in the meeting to bar transgender high school girls from sports had ever even seen it happen or heard of it happening in the valley. So why the sudden emergency? It mostly boils down to one thing: The 2024 elections. National right wing politicians are looking for an "acceptable" hate target to get voters riled up enough to go to the polls. Transgender girls were not considered a problem until recently, even though they have been in schools for at least 100 years. Transgender athletes have been competing openly in schools for decades, without the predicted downfall of girl's sports. It is a proven fact that transgender girls haven't had a negative effect on girl's sports, but banning them has done immense harm to the transgender girls themselves. This isn't considered a negative outcome to the rightwing politicians, and in fact is probably the outcome that the people backing these bans are hoping for. The fact is that it is getting ever more difficult (but not impossible) to attack people because of their color, religion, or sexual partners. This leaves transgender kids as one of the few "acceptable" targets for politicians and hate mobs to rally around. One big difference now is that the previous targets of discrimination and hate weren't primarily children. The attacks obviously made life miserable and hazardous for the targets, but being mostly adults gave them more options to protect themselves. This attack on children targets the most vulnerable and defenseless among us. The people pushing these bills must be mighty proud of themselves.

Leif D Simcox [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Liz Dean](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 2:35:55 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Sincerely,  
Mz Liz Dean

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Susie And Mark](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Only girls in girls' sports  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 5:22:07 AM

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I support the proposed regulation as published. My daughter obtained a 4 year college scholarship in swimming through hard work, sacrifice and determination. That's what Title IX did for girls. Don't take that away.

Thanks,

Mark and Susan Ritz

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Maureen Knutsen](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 2:04:20 PM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

As a 31-year public school employee, I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

From my experience, children are very accepting of each other when playing on the playground together and on co-ed intramural teams in PE classes. The ideas of fairness and sportsmanship are what are important for children of all ages and genders to learn and experience.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Maureen Knutsen

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Michele Vasquez](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 12:08:13 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports for so many reasons, but the top one is it is extremely bigoted and transphobic. Secondly, it sends the wrong message to the most vulnerable students in our schools who are struggling enough as it is without the school board also telling trans kids they aren't welcome. Third, there is no waiting list of trans kids who want to play school sports so this is a solution in search of a problem that simply does not exist in Alaska. Please refrain from transporting the ugliness and bigotry taking place in the Lower 48 against trans youth. In simple terms, if there are any actual trans kids who want to play sports, let them play!

Sincerely,  
Ms. Michele Vasquez

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Miri Cypers](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 11:45:02 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

Dear Alaska Board of Education,

On behalf of ADL (Anti-Defamation League) Pacific Northwest Region, which represents communities in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, I am writing to express strong concerns with the proposal, which would prevent transgender girls from participating in school sports.

Founded in 1913 in response to an escalating climate of antisemitism and bigotry, ADL has since become a leading anti-hate organization. As we work to fulfill our founding mission to “secure justice and fair treatment to all,” we engage in efforts to counter and prevent discrimination of all kinds.

This proposal is a blatant attack on transgender, intersex, and gender nonconforming girls and women. Transgender students – particularly transgender women and girls of color – regularly face systemic discrimination, marginalization, and violence. Excluding them from school sports causes additional deep harm. School sports offer unique opportunities for relationship building, leadership, physical and mental health, development of self-confidence, and creating a sense of team and belonging in school. Depriving transgender students of such opportunities is discriminatory and wrong.

This proposal also rests on inaccurate stereotypes regarding athleticism, biology, and gender, which not only demonstrates that the policy is a terrible, misguided solution in search of a non-existent problem, but also causes further harm. By policing gender and girls’ bodies, this proposal threatens to stigmatize, marginalize, and exclude students who do not conform to inaccurate gender and sex stereotypes. Transgender students deserve the right to engage in athletics consistent with their gender identity. No student – including transgender youth – should be excluded from sports because of who they are.

This proposal runs counter to the values of our state.

We respectfully, but adamantly request that you reject this unnecessary and deeply harmful proposal.

Sincerely,  
Miri Cypers

[REDACTED]

Sincerely,  
Ms. Miri Cypers

[REDACTED]

**From:** [rebecca owens](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Transgender sports  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 9:17:16 AM

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Hello, as a public school educator and parent, I strongly oppose allowing transgender males to compete in women's sports. We MUST protect the mental well-being of all our children.

Thank you,  
Rebecca Owens

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Penisten Turcic, Sara L](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support of proposed regulation to prohibit transgender males-to-females from participating in girls" sports activities  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 8:56:55 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Dear Janell Andrews and Alaska Board of Education Members,

I am writing to express my **full support of the proposal as written to prohibit transgender males-to-females from participating in K-12 girls' sports activities**. In fact, it is my expectation as an Alaska resident, parent, and registered voter that the Board **MUST** enact this proposal. I am a registered nurse and have worked in the neonatal/maternal-child/pediatric realm for over 30 years, currently focusing on child and adult injury prevention programming.

I am a graduate of the Anchorage School District (grades K-12) and completed my post-secondary education in Alaska. My three children are graduates of the Anchorage School District, as well. My children and I all participated in school competitive athletics, having earned several varsity letters during our high school years.

Allowing biological males, who by their undeniable genetic makeup have the potential for larger bodies, increased muscle mass, and superior physical performance, would place biological female athletes at increased risk for injury. Additionally, those injuries could lead to permanent impairment and morbidity. Even in "non-contact" sports, such as volleyball, a biological male athlete would have the potential to spike the ball at much higher rate of velocity and force than typical for female athletes into the head of a biological female athlete, causing permanent traumatic brain injury. Allowing even the possibility of such scenarios to exist is unacceptable.

Alaska's own Olympic champion, Lydia Jacoby, may have never risen to the top swim racing levels of her sport had she been competing against biological males. Title IV is far too important and was a hard-won victory for female athletes to allow it to be buried by nonsensical social pressure being exerted by a minority of citizens. The Alaska Board of Education has the opportunity to stand firm and uphold Title IV protections for female athletes. Seize the moment and make it so.

Respectfully,

~Sara

***Sara Penisten Turcic, RN, BSNS, CPSTI***

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**Dena'inaq eInen'aq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu. (Dena'ina)** *I live and work on the traditional land of the Dena'ina. (English)*



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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Shoshanah Stone](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 12:01:48 AM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,  
Ms Shoshanah Stone

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Silas Paniptchuk](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 9:53:16 AM

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Good day, my Name is Silas Paniptchuk. I am pleased to hear Alaska is striving to do what is best for KIDS sports. Keeping natural born genders separated is in the best interest of children in my opinion. These kids have already have many pressures in todays world. Let's hope Alaska never has to have this conversation again. Thank you for your time.

Silas Paniptchuk

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Tammy Smith](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Changes on Interscholastic Activities In The Regulations Of Department Of Education And Early Development  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 9:45:28 AM

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Dear Janell Andrews,

I, Tammy Smith, support the proposed regulation as published.

Thank you,  
Tammy Smith

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Alaska Online Public Notices](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Comment on NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES ON INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES IN THE REGULATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 10:43:29 AM

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A new comment has been submitted on the public notice [NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES ON INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES IN THE REGULATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT](#).

**Submitted:**

7/14/2023 10:43:25 AM

Wayne C.Grieme  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Anonymous User

**Comment:**

Girl sports should only be played by biological females. Having males who say they are females should not qualify them to compete against biological females.

If this is going to be a contest of who is male or female, why aren't more girls claiming to be male involved in football or baseball or boxing? Why is the girls basketball, ball smaller that the boys basketball? How many of you are even aware of that?

THIS LAW NEEDS TO PASS.

---

You can review all comments on this notice by [clicking here](#).

[Alaska Online Public Notices](#)

**From:** [Carol Carman](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Girl's Sports  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 6:21:16 PM

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I think you know what is right to do. Boys do not belong in girls sports. Period. The biological difference simply gives boys a HUGE advantage. Sports became segregated by sex long ago for very good reason, as demonstrated by gender confused males now taking trophies (instead of girls) in girls' competition. Please don't be pressured to ignore pure science and fairness in this matter.

Thank you.

*Carol Carman*

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Margaret Loew](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** 4 AAC 06 of the Alaska Administrative Code,  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 11:54:22 PM

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To whom it may concern:

Please adopt the changes to the interscholastic activities, allowing only female students to participate in female events & competitions. This is the truly fair and equitable path to these sporting events. It is a fact that male bodies are stronger than female bodies. Male bodies are different than female bodies. For the safety and security of all involved, each gender should compete separately. Thank you for your time.

*Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right  
hand there are pleasures for evermore.  
Psalm 16:11*

*Margaret Loew*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Rachel Wilson](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Males in female sports  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 6:41:31 PM

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**Hello,**

**My name is Rachel Roy. I live in Eagle River and I have young daughter. I support prohibiting biological males who identify as female from competing against high school girl athletes. Transgenderism is a slippery slope – as many schools across the country have already gone to the extent of allowing biological males to share locker rooms and restrooms with females. PLEASE stop listening to the minority and listen to the majority. Give my daughter a chance at winning at sports and keeping safe in lockers room.**

**Thank you for reading**

**Rachel Roy.**

**From:** [Sandy Harbaugh](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Biological females  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 5:38:40 PM

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I want only biological females from birth to play female sports. And I am 100% behind state legislation that will support from birth females only in female sports. Sandra Harbaugh [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Shelly Soderstrom](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Transgender Athletes in high school sports  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2023 8:28:17 PM

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Hello Janell,

My name is Shelly Soderstrom and it has been brought to my attention that the State Board of Education will be voting on whether or not to allow Transgender Athletes compete against Biological Gender Athletes. I would like to take the time and let you know why I feel we need to keep girls sports only to biologically born females.

I have a daughter that is a cross country skier and just finished her first year of high school this last spring. When she was 5 years old she came to me in the kitchen and told me she wanted to go to the Olympics as a Nordic Skier. The first thing I told her was that she should start now (at 5 years old) and it was going to take a lot of hard work and determination. Let me tell you, that is all I have seen from that girl since that day.

Just one example of what I mean... we Moved from Fairbanks to Anchorage 3 years ago for her to train with Alaska Winter Stars, coach is Jan Buron. Jan has taken the time to get to know her and what she is capable of. This last year she trained 680 hours at 15 years old. This was more than most of the boys trained and with more focus, and many of these hours at 5 am before going to school. She was a freshman last year and she is only the second freshman to take the State Championship by only .5 seconds to a senior. It was incredible to watch and of course we were incredibly proud of her as her parents as we were screaming at the finish line to push! Still gives me chills.

With all that excitement, if you look at the results from the girls to boys, when they race the same distance, the boys still crush the girls in this competition. As I pointed out before, she trains just as much or more than the boys. No matter what, a woman will never be able to beat a male athlete at the same caliber.

How many college scholarships will be lost to girls if we allow these boys to compete against them. How many points will be lost in the USSA sanctioned races to get these girls to compete against the best in the world?

Thank you for taking the time to stand up for our biological daughters! We need as many of you as possible. It will break my heart if the rights of these young women are ripped away from them to have a fair competition. Let me know if there is anything else I can do to keep girls sports to only biological girls.

Thank you,

Shelly Soderstrom

**From:** [Abby](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 9:33:40 PM

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Dear Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would separate trans girls from their peers.

As someone who was an athlete and participated in school sports throughout middle and high school, I think it is unfair and wrong to deny anyone the ability to participate in sports. For me, sports was a place to grow, connect to teammates, and have a sense of pride in your team and hard work. I trained for cross country skiing, track, cross country running, and volleyball, and in each sport I was lucky to find coaches that supported me and wanted to see me succeed. This is what students should find in sports: support. To deny a child this experience simply because school board members or lawmakers do not relate to or are scared of trans children—this is unacceptable. According to the UCLA Williams Institute, 0.6% of the population are transgender in the United States. Surely we can find a way to accommodate this small population without isolating and ostracizing kids. I implore the Board of Education to find new solutions that allow ALL kids to play sports and feel supported.

Additionally, I feel it is necessary to mention this concerning statistic: according to the National Library of Medicine, 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves, and 40% have attempted suicide (with rates the highest for transgender teens). LGBTQ+ youth are already in danger, and at risk for bullying; they do not need to be put in a compromising position by their own school board members or legislators. We need to protect children and not contribute further harm by marginalizing an already vulnerable population of children. School is supposed to be a safe space to learn and grow and be yourself without fear of stigmatization and harassment.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

Abby Amick  
[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Alexander Jones](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 3:12:30 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Alexander Jones

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Allison Dill](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Dunleavy don't diss on trans kids  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 1:34:05 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Allison Dill

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Jeffrey Spang](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Female sports  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 10:22:06 AM

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Simply put PLEASE do not allow “ gender-confused biological males ” to play female sports. It is wrong and unfair.

Bethany Spang

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect girls sports! Code 4 AAC 06  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 8:45:14 PM

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Dear Commissioner's Office, Dept of Ed.,

I support girl and women sports to be restricted to biological females only. Science proves that transgenders have a physical advantage to biological females in physical endeavors. Therefore, it gives them an unfair advantage and reduces biological female's opportunities to participate, win, and earn scholarships. Thank-you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Brandon Sandstrom  
Father of three strong Alaskan girls.

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Brook Lowery](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 2:10:06 PM

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Sincerely,  
Mx. Brook Lowery

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Chad Emswiler](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Trans Policy  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 7:49:49 PM

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Dear Commissioner's Office, Dept of Ed.,

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Regards,

**CHAD EMSWILER**

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Chandra Poe](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 7:33:27 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

As the mother of a transgender girl, these public legislative and policy attacks feel deeply personal and make me fearful for my child's safety. My kid is not a threat. The amount of time our family has spent this year, standing up for our transgender child's basic human rights, is substantial. It is exhausting. And it is so, so damaging for our child to hear these persistent attacks on them by people in elected or appointed positions of leadership.

Transgender students who want to play – children who just want to play – are not a threat. They do no harm by their existence in this world or participation in school sports. These actions serve to weaponize sports to bully and dehumanize transgender children.

There is no evidence to support that transgender athletes are impacting girls' sports negatively. In fact, the opposite: according to a report from the Center for American Progress, when a state has a policy that includes transgender athletes, participation for cisgender women and girls is stronger. Further, banning trans women and girls from sport also puts cisgender women and girls at risk because anyone who falls outside of what is deemed stereotypical feminine may be forced to "prove" she is a woman or girl, which leads to invasive screenings and procedures to verify gender.

We are not talking about high-stake competitive sports here – we are talking about kids, and the goal should be encouraging participation. Dr. Karissa Niehoff, National Federation of State High School Associations chief executive officer, stated in May 2022 "What is the purpose of high school sports? It's the health and safety of participants, as well as developing life skills and citizenship. Is it to win? No. Is it to offer an opportunity? Yes." If any of our kids have the combination of talent, determination and dedication to move into collegiate, professional or Olympic level sports, there are existing policies in place at each of these levels to encourage fair and inclusive participation of all athletes.

The proposed bylaw changes will perpetuate government overreach and surveillance and will single out a vulnerable group of youth who already face extreme bullying and harassment simply for existing, and especially when participating in the sports they love. Actions like this make school less safe for transgender kids and will increase harassment and body policing for all girls.

Sport spaces help children develop critical life skills like communication, teamwork, and leadership — and give them a community of peers with whom they connect and can develop life-long friendships . These spaces are imperative for all kids, no matter their gender. We should be finding ways to create more opportunities for kids to be active and engaged with their peers, not denying them access.

Sincerely,  
Mx. Chandra Poe

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Christopher Crawford](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 3:52:19 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Christopher Crawford

[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Dahsn Walsh](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 10:10:30 AM

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. Dahsn Walsh

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Daniel Walker](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 3:10:54 PM

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Sincerely,  
Mx Daniel Walker

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Denedra Bostic](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 2:20:44 PM

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Sincerely,  
Ms Denedra Bostic

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Dennis Hotchkiss](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** To protect girl sports  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 4:29:17 PM

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Dear Commissioner's Office, Dept of Ed.,

I support girl and women sports to be **restricted to biological females only**. Science proves that transgenders have a physical advantage to biological females in sports competition. Therefore, it gives them an unfair advantage and reduces biological female's opportunities to participate, win, and earn scholarships. Thank-you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dennis Hotchkiss

**From:** [Donna Dooley](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Women's sports  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 4:45:12 PM

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I propose that the State of Alaska allow our female athletes to compete in all state/school sponsored events against biological females.

If it is necessary for a new division of transgender people to be created, then do so.

It is unjust for women to compete against biological males.

Thank you,  
Donna Dooley

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Dustin Gridley](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 3:59:43 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

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Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Dustin Gridley

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Elaina Roberts](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Trans individuals in sports  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 6:06:58 PM

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Dear Commissioner's Office, Dept of Ed.,

I support girl and women sports to be **restricted to biological females only**. Science proves that transgenders have a physical advantage to biological females in physical endeavors. Therefore, it gives them an unfair advantage and reduces biological female's opportunities to participate, win, and earn scholarships. As a mother to two girls, it is important to me that they have fair opportunities as they enter sports in high school and college. Thank-you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Elaina Roberts

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Erica Wells](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 4:05:30 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

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Sincerely,  
Ms Erica Wells

[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Georganne Brainard](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 4:00:18 PM

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Sincerely,  
Ms Georganne Brainard

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Sandstrom](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect girls sports! Code 4 AAC 06  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 8:40:33 PM

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Dear Commissioner's Office, Dept of Ed.,

I support girl and women sports to be **restricted to biological females only**. Science proves that transgenders have a physical advantage to biological females in physical endeavors. Therefore, it gives them an unfair advantage and reduces biological female's opportunities to participate, win, and earn scholarships. Thank-you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Hannah Sandstrom, mother of 3 girls who currently participate and have participated in school sports.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [Jackie Williams](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Girls" Sports  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 10:03:44 PM

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To The Alaska State Board of Education,

I am writing in support of keeping girl's and women's sports restricted to biological females only. It is scientifically proven that, biologically, males have an advantage over females when it comes to sports. I have a daughter who participated in sports and I have a granddaughter who is now participating in sports. To think that females, who have trained their entire lives with aspirations of excelling in their particular sport, aspirations of earning a scholarship or scholarships, and even aspirations of qualifying for the U.S. Olympic Team at some point in their lives, may be surpassed because a biological male has been allowed to compete against them, well this just seems a travesty.

This is not about whether we see a person's intrinsic value as important. It's not about allowing a person to 'choose' their sexual orientation. And, it's not about telling someone they are not allowed the choice of 'identifying' as something other than what they were born as. The most important thing is that I would never want a biological male competing against my granddaughter just because he identified as a female. This is about fairness on the playing field. Nothing more, nothing less. It's about competing equally with those of their own gender, so that those who are biological males do not have an unfair advantage. Please do the right thing and protect what is fair and just and only allow biological females to compete against biological females.

Thanks so much for your time,

Jackie Williams

[REDACTED]

Sincerely,

**From:** [Jacob Gerasimof](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Alaska State Board of Education regulation protect girls in sports  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 1:17:10 PM

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Dear Board of Education,

Thank you very much for acting. I appreciate this proposal to protect young women athletes in Alaska. I am a father of 3 adult daughters who all loved sports, & I understand the unfairness of allowing those born as males to compete against young ladies. It is unsafe & unfair. I fully support this regulatory change that will give young women the opportunity to compete on a level playing field.

Sincerely,

Jacob & Amanda Gerasimof

[REDACTED]

**From:** [James Mcanelly](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protecting girls sports 4 AAC 06  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 8:03:01 PM

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My name is Jim McAnelly and I am writing in support of the proposed regulation change to protect girls sports and ensure a fair and level playing field. I was present at the quarterly meeting that was held in my hometown of Soldotna and testified there. I am a father of three children that attend KPBSD schools in Soldotna their upcoming grades they will be in are 5th, 9th and 12th. My two oldest are young women and my youngest is a boy. Let me start by saying the reason I refer to my son as a boy is because he has not hit puberty and my daughters have. All of my kids play sports. My oldest played and varsity lettered in 4 sports last year as a junior at Soldotna high school. The sports she played were cross country running, wrestling, basketball and track/field. My middle child who is a young woman played soccer, wrestling, basketball and track/field at Skyview middle school. My youngest, who is a boy, had a few after school programs that he played that are not competition oriented. He plays mixed and it is ok because these kids have not gone through puberty and are non competitive.

I think this proposed regulation is great with much enthusiasm. I have talked to many student athletes and their parents and have not heard any say that this is a bad change. My family handed out flyers about this at our local Soldotna Creek Park during a gathering of multitudes and was met with overwhelming support.

I will say that if my daughters compete against young men that identify as a girl it will devastate the sports they play in. I refer to them as young men because they have gone through puberty. Every sport that my girls play they cannot compete with the opposite sex. Take a look at the records.

I feel as if every woman should be outraged at the thought of mixed sports where anyone can try out for a team or individual event regardless of their sex. Years of legislation and hard work has been put in to allow women the same opportunities as men in sports and life in general. By passing this regulation you will be ensuring this to continue.

When I attended your quarterly meeting I heard a phone call in person testify that a person born a male that wouldn't be allowed to play in a girls sport that he now identifies as would be depressed. I am here to tell you the amount of women that would be depressed about a man taking their roster spot or opportunity would be far greater. That is the truth and please don't be swayed by the opposition. I also heard from the same caller that this isn't a problem. Well if you do not act until this is a problem it will be too late.

I want to thank you for your courage to take this regulation up. I look forward to the warm reception you will receive when this regulation passes. Let's keep girls competing with girls and not a free for all with women up against men.

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Jamie Von Heeder](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 9:05:50 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

I am emailing you today as a parent and Alaskan resident. I strongly oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

As I am sure you are aware, a legislative bill seeking restrict the rights of transgender Alaskans was widely opposed and rejected. The majority of Alaskans support the rights of our LGBTQ+ community, our community's right to privacy, and wish to protect our children and students.

Statistics prove that allowing transgender students to play sports with their peers on teams consistent with their gender identity decreases depression and suicide. These are some of our most vulnerable kids and we should seek to support them instead of ostracizing them.

Children and teens naturally accept and support their peers regardless of gender expression, race, religion, etc. It is adults who sadly teach them otherwise and we need to change that.

School sports should be uplifting, inclusive and teach our children about team spirit. The proposed regulation changes are exactly the opposite of that.

To reiterate, I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Jamie Von Heeder

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Jeannette Okinczyc](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 2:36:57 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

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Sincerely,  
Ms Jeannette Okinczyc

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Jesse Gill](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 4:04:42 PM

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Jesse Gill

[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protecting Girls in Sports  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 4:57:41 PM

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Dear Board of Education,

Please implement the proposed regulations that will prevent biological males from competing in girl's sports. Young women and girls deserve the opportunity to achieve in athletics and earn the benefits of possible scholarships and most of all protect their health and privacy. And young men deserve the opportunity to thrive in their own lane; not cheapened by playing in sports where they clearly have the biological advantage. It's not fair to the girls or the boys. I raise three Alaskan boys, and I would never cheapen what they are capable of by making the playing field easier. And as a woman, I stand firm against the erasing of the beauty and strength of female biology as something separate from male biology. Please allow the poor outcomes of other states who have failed to protect girls in sports to guide your decision. Thank you for your leadership in this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Stock

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Jill Horsman](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Public comments Regarding 4 AAC 06 Changes  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 7:53:42 AM

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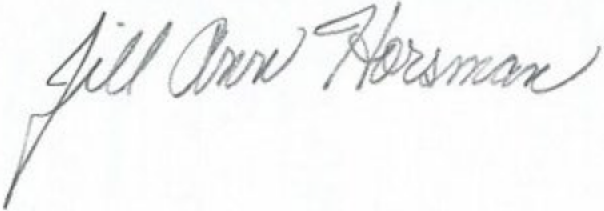
Education Commissioner,

As a former athlete, female, educator, parent and grandparent, this change to interscholastic activities is extremely important to me. I have female athletes in my family. They work hard to stay physically fit. As females at birth, their physical bodies differ in many ways from biological male bodies. These may be unimportant in social or work situations, but they are profoundly important when it comes to athletic performance. (I currently am adjunct faculty and one of my courses is child development. Our textbooks speak to these biological differences as children develop, and they are well-founded in solid science and biology).

*I support proposed changes to the interscholastic activities regulation which preserves high school female sports and limits participation to only girls who are female at birth.*

I want my female family members and all the women in Alaska to experience equity, safety, and fair opportunities for athletes; this cannot happen if they are competing against biological males.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jill Horsman, Mat-Su Borough District  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Alan & Joan Hoza](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Regulations Review 4 AAC 06.115(b)(5)  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 11:18:12 PM

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Dear Janell Andrews and DEED board members,

I totally support the regulation to keep female sports for females. As an athlete that qualified for Alaska State competition in XC running, XC skiing and Track, I would have been devastated to be beaten by a biologically-born male.

It is quite clear that male hormones as early as 8-9 years old confer benefits in bone and lungs that make competition against biologically-born females completely unfair in future years.

Women fought for equality in sports support and competition, do not take that away now.

Thank you,

Joan Hoza

**From:** [josie@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:josie@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Josanne Breeding-Owen](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 9:45:58 AM

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[You don't often get email from [josie@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:josie@everyactioncustom.com). Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Transgender students should be allowed to fully participate in school sports on the teams that best align with their gender identity.

As educators, we know that school is our students' workplace and equal access and participation in school academics, sports and all school activities, is a Constitutional right. We have laws that prohibit discrimination against minority populations in the workplace and this includes schools.

The content of this proposed regulation violates decades of educational research upon which most public school curricula and wellness programs are crafted and receive Federal funding. Again, this research overwhelmingly indicates that students need an inclusive school/ workplace to support their academic goals and physical and mental health. Therefore, all students ought to have access and be treated equally in the workplace/ the school to support their wellbeing, and this proposal would clearly do the opposite: the proposed regulation will discriminate against transgender students, a minority population, and put this population at risk both physically and mentally.

As Americans, we ought to know the US Constitution and the protections it provides for all, and as educators, we know the resiliency data for our kids. Allowing this proposed rule to become law, will be endorsing discrimination and violating our promise to do no harm to our students. It is unacceptable.

As adults and leaders, we ought to safeguard every student and their access to the activities of student life and that includes being able to participate on a sports team congruent with their gender identity.

Thank you for taking my comment.

Respectfully submitted,

Josanne Breeding-Owen  
Retired School Psychologist  
Small business owner

Sincerely,  
Ms Josanne Breeding-Owen  
7141 Montagne Cir Anchorage, AK 99507-1283  
[josie@flyaat.com](mailto:josie@flyaat.com)

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Josie Hinckley](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 4:12:23 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Josie Hinckley

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Judy Hollinger](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Administrative Code 4AAC04  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 4:53:24 PM

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I am very concerned that the Alaska State Board of Education is considering allowing biological males who identify as females to participate in women's sports. It is a scientific fact that biological males have greater bone and muscle mass as well as larger hearts that gives them a distinct advantage over biological girls. If transgender males want to participate in sports form a class where they can compete against other transgender males. Protect our girls and womens sports.

Judith A Hollinger  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Kacie Hinson](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed regulation changes to Administrative Code 4 AAC 06  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 4:53:10 PM

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Dear Commissioner's Office, Dept of Ed.,

I support girl and women sports to be **restricted to biological females only**.

Science proves that transgenders have a physical advantage to biological females in physical endeavors.

Therefore, it gives them an unfair advantage and reduces biological female's opportunities to participate, win, and earn scholarships.

As a mother of 2 girls and a boy I can attest they have different strengths and I believe allowing biological males to compete in a biological female event/sport is wrong.

Please vote the sports/events to stay strictly Biological female events only and do not cave to the lies of the world as transgenders demand equal rights. They are NOT equal.

Thank-you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Kacie Hinson, a concerned mother.

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Karen Murdock](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 11:24:11 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports. This regulation is discriminatory and promotes prejudice against trans students.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Karen Murdock

[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect our girls  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 9:44:24 AM

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I am asking that you prohibit biological males who identify as female from competing against high school girls. All sports. It is not fair or right to allow boys compete against girls in sports. Please do the right thing.

Kari Arno

**From:** [Kevin Madruga](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Women's Sports  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 7:11:30 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I'm writing in regards to men, identifying as women, competing in women's sports. As a father of three daughters, who played sports in school, I know how unfair and disheartening it would be to them if they had to compete against biological males. I also know that they would feel uncomfortable with the physical contact involved in sports with biological males that would be considered inappropriate in other settings.

Thanks for listening to this very concerned citizen for the future direction of women's sports.

Kevin Madruga

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Kirsten Willett](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 10:15:25 AM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Kirsten Willett

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Laura Wicwillow](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Don't let fear guide our children into suicide  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 6:24:08 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

I value your time, so I'll cut right to the chase.

Alaska's child suicide rate is the highest per capita in the nation.

If a student doesn't feel safe enough to speak openly to their parents/guardians and opens up to a teacher, counselor, or another student, only to be ostracized by her fellow teammates and school administrators, then outed to their parents, from the child's viewpoint, do you think that will help Alaska's suicide rate?

If the board's goal, by approving this measure, is to open up the State to gender discrimination lawsuits and cause Trans children to commit suicide, thereby eradicating the Trans "Problem", approving this measure is the best way to proceed.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day."

Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will endanger and profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers. It further endangers their mental health by making them feel ostracized by their fellow students, parents, and what could be their only safe place.

Children are very vulnerable. There is no way to stop a Trans child from being a Trans child unless we want to change the definition of Trans. Discrimination has never been the way to promote equal opportunity. If one is concerned about Trans females being unfairly strong, I encourage that one to speak to any Doctor about the effects of Estrogen on the human body.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Laura Wicwillow

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Linda Mackey](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Girls sports  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 6:41:34 AM

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Dear committee members,

I oppose male gender participating in girl sports. Not only is it a physical disadvantage to female athletes it is morally wrong.

Please don't allow it.

Sincerely

Lind Sherman

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Luka Harris](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Trans kids are people  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 1:35:25 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,  
Xx Luka Harris

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Maria Crawford](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 1:38:15 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Maria Crawford

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Rebecca Cullenberg](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Girls Sports!!!  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 9:41:37 PM

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Dear Commissioner's Office, Dept of Ed.,

I support girl and women sports to be **restricted to biological females only**. Science proves that transgenders have a physical advantage to biological females in physical endeavors. Therefore, it gives them an unfair advantage and reduces biological female's opportunities to participate, win, and earn scholarships. Thank-you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark and Rebecca Cullenberg



**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Maximus Fields](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 1:10:23 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Maximus Fields

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Maxwell Plichta](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 12:24:35 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Maxwell Plichta

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Maya Daruvala](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 1:58:42 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,  
Ms Maya Daruvala

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Mo Dart](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 12:56:01 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,  
Mx. Mo Dart

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Olivia Hampton](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 4:00:54 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

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Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,  
Ms Olivia Hampton

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Phoenix Lampkin](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 1:01:32 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,  
Mx. Phoenix Lampkin

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Raechell Fine](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 2:41:33 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,  
Mx. Raechell Fine

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Rhiannon Wheeler](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Where's the line? Let ALL kids play together  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 7:28:43 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

Every child deserves the chance to express themselves how they see fit. Where is the line drawn? Do you penalize the girls who never wear dresses? What about the kids who wear oversized sweatshirts? Is it now illegal for boys to have long hair? All kids deserve to express themselves and play how they want to, regardless of how they were born or how they changed.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Rhiannon Wheeler

[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Samuel Deakin](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 2:29:34 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Samuel Deakin

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Sarah Goetz](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 3:03:04 PM

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Sarah Goetz

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Shelbey Dunlap](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 1:01:37 PM

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Sincerely,  
Ms Shelbey Dunlap

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Skyler Blake](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Transgender People deserve to be included  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 1:16:33 PM

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Sincerely,  
Mx. Skyler Blake

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Sophie Twogood](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 1:14:01 PM

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Sincerely,  
Miss Sophie Twogood

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Steve Horsman](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Comments regarding 4 ACC 06  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 7:57:12 AM  
**Attachments:** [InterAct Avatar - small with drop shadow copy.png](#)

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Commissioner,

As a parent and ministry leader I know numerous female athletes. They work hard to excel in their sport and do well when they are fairly competing against other biologic females. I am gravely concerned for any female competing against biological males.

“I support proposed changes to the interscholastic activities regulation which preserves high school female sports and limits participation to only girls who are female at birth.”

Respectfully Submitted

Steve Horsman



**From:** [Steve Maily](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: biological males competing in girl's sports  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 6:41:55 PM

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**From:** "Steve Maily" [REDACTED]  
**To:** "deed commissioner" <deed.commissioner@alaska.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 6:13:54 PM  
**Subject:** biological males competing in girl's sports

Please take a firm stand **against** biological males competing against high school girls in sports. Please insure honest competition, health and safety in high school girls sports not allowing such a not only terrible but inane distraction from true competition and education. For the sake of brevity, the aforementioned is grossly understated--- please stand firmly---do not cave to trans activists. The measures that they are insisting upon have no place in political discussion, where compromise would be expected from both parties. Rather, trans-activist, **bullying measures are literally at war with reality**. If they get their way in our institutions then they have successfully toppled the legitimate social order which is a real danger, not only to impressionable high school female students by society as a whole. We are not conflating gender with sex, rather trans-activists and their sophist, sophomoric, lying so-called professionals are conflating child abuse with compassion. I have 20 grandchildren, 8 of them are girls, the older ones sports participants. The lies promulgated by the LGBTQSOB illegitimate community (+) is over the top, not this communication. Get your illegitimate, un-American lobbying (or "professional" sympathy with their cause) carcasses the hell out of Juneau and don't let the proverbial door hit you in the seat of your sophomoric so called intelligence location. How dare you force your sordid morality and pseudo-science on my grandchildren.

PS, **The equally sordid notion that people's DNA is responsible for multiple genders, ie, "I was born this way" is patently illogical. It is not only Christians who understand the bible as teaching that whatever inclinations one is born are to be reckoned dead at baptism unto new life (highly recommended). All people, whatever their religion or lack of know that human beings cannot simply run with their born-in inclinations. Sin in general covers most of the letters in the alphabet. Maybe covering one's ears will help?**

Steve Maily

**From:** [Steve Maily](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** biological males competing in girl's sports  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 6:14:00 PM

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Steve Maily



**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Suki Merica](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 12:49:50 PM

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Dear Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Commissioner,

Please do not adopt changes to Alaska Administrative Code (4 AAC 06.115) that would violate all students' privacy and separate trans girls from their peers.

Stop making kids unsafe.

The Alaska State Board of Education's mission is "An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day." Adopting these regulation changes would be a blatant violation of this mission by denying transgender girls the ability to participate fully in sports and school communities. These proposed changes will profoundly violate all students' privacy by forcing educators and coaches to identify and separate transgender youth from their peers.

Making changes to Alaska Administrative Code does not solve any real issue and instead actively stigmatizes, isolates, and denies basic participation in school activities to trans girls. To protect students' privacy and push back against discrimination, I urge the Alaska State Board of Education and Department of Education and Early Development to oppose these changes: let trans students be part of the team.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Suki Merica

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Susannah McDuffie](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect female sports  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 7:42:56 PM

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Dear Commissioner's Office, Dept of Ed.,

I support girl and women sports to be **restricted to biological females only**. Science proves that transgenders have a physical advantage to biological females in physical endeavors. Therefore, it gives them an unfair advantage and reduces biological female's opportunities to participate, win, and earn scholarships. Thank-you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Susannah McDuffie

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Sven Sorge](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 6:52:36 AM

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Dear Commissioner Heidi Teshner,

I oppose the proposed regulation changes to 4 AAC 06 dealing with school sports.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Sven Sorge

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [TAMARA TOY](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 2:02:28 PM

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Sincerely,  
Mrs TAMARA TOY

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Tawni Teager](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 1:58:16 PM

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Sincerely,  
Ms Tawni Teager

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Thomas Richardson](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 1:07:23 PM

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Thomas Richardson

[REDACTED]

**From:** [timothy nelson](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed changes to 4 AAC 06  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 10:20:16 AM

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Dear Sirs:

I support the changes recommended for 4 AAC 06. To do otherwise could bring up the question of why we have separate sports and end girls teams.

Having raised a grandson thru the ASD he has told me that there is almost an endorsement of the LGBTQ+ lifestyle - to the point where the "special" treatment they receive turns the attitudes of the other students against them. Don't get me wrong, I think every individual should be treated with respect regardless of the choices they've made. I don't agree that we should be required to support and embrace those choices.

Tim Nelson

**From:** [Braund](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Transgenders Dominating Females  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 12:36:11 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I was a San Diego Police Officer, the most violent city in America as determined by the annual numbers of police related shootings, always the highest. Never knew of one shooting by Law Enforcement there which was not justified.

San Diego is a border town, rife with guns and drugs and gangs. The only way to fix that is to eliminate the gangs and other groups organized to commit crimes. And that goes all the way to the top of government.

Crime is a political football and no government of the elected which has been infiltrated with political predators does enough about it. Predators? Some elected enter office for the money, some for the power. The good ones are most often outnumbered by the bad ones, the predators. Predators take advantage of the voters by preventing justice, by not effectively giving the people the ability to curb crime, and by positioning themselves for any gain they can get. Reelection is more important to them. You know this. I liken that to criminal activity. Crooks are crooks because they are utterly selfish. They don't care about anybody but themselves. That's what we're seeing in this issue. Transgenders infiltrating women's sports are utterly selfish.

What's different about transgenders? Not a thing. They're just predators with a different angle. They use any device to perpetrate their filthy tasks. They're just another group of sexual perverts, and in some cases should be registered sex offenders. They hate women, which is why they want to dominate them, insult them, disparage them, revile them, defeat them. They're no better than rapists and child molesters, which are not "sex crimes" but crimes of violence. They use their "role" if you call it that, to get by with their despicable deeds. Please don't fall for their twisted arguments.

I found during my own research while a Police Officer that about 1/3 of the street prostitutes in my police division, mostly in my police district, on my beat, were males, transvestites, and some were transgenders. Some had rap sheets consisting of violent crimes. The cutest transvestite prostitute (transvestite) when in drag, was Archie Main, 5'4", 120 pounds, a makeup artist, who had two priors for murder. He openly told me how he got away with keeping his john from discovering he was a biological male during sex. He had 5 pimps to protect him and they got a monetary cut of Archie's trade. This is not something I'd recommend investigating too deeply; it will make you sick. But Police Officers deal with this scum daily, out of necessity. Thank God for good cops who hold to their oath of office.

The majority of street prostitutes have pimps. When I and the 2 officers on our beat assigned to the other shifts got the prostitutes to leave our beat (took 3 months and it was done legally), naturally pimps went with them and instantly, our human trafficking kidnaps, rapes, and murders ceased.

Realistically, any male who "identifies" as a female is displaying a sexual perversion. Truly not all transgenders are violent. But when they invade women-only functions, they're preying on women.

We can prevent this by making it illegal for biological males to prey on females. Just say no, lawfully. And make it tough; put teeth into it.

Thank you.

Tom Braund  
[REDACTED]



**From:** [Travis](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please Protect Girls Sports  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 9:19:52 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I urge you to restrict participation in separate athletics teams for competitive or contact sports to females who were female at birth, rather than males who have taken hormones and had surgeries to present themselves as females.

Men have a biological unfair advantage over women when it comes to physical sports.

The 100 meter dash world record holder for a female is Florence Griffith-Joyner who ran in 10.49. The men's world record holder is Usain Bolt who ran in 9.58. However, 7,143 men have run the 100 meter dash faster than Griffith-Joyner the woman's record holder. **7,143**. This is just one of a multitude of examples that demonstrate that biological males are endowed with physical traits giving them an advantage over women.

Coed sports exist for good reason.

Thank you for protecting girls sports.

Travis Robotkay

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Wes Snyder](#)  
**To:** [Commissioner, DEED \(EED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protect student privacy and let ALL kids play  
**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 12:04:52 PM

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Wes Snyder

[REDACTED]