



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 7882 • MADISON, WI 53707-7882

To: Assembly Committee on Education

From: Senator Mark Spreitzer, Chair of the Wisconsin Legislative LGBTQ+ Caucus

RE: Assembly Bill 100

Date: March 6, 2025

Chair Kitchens and committee members:

As Chair of the Wisconsin Legislative LGBTQ+ Caucus, I am submitting written testimony in opposition to 2025 Assembly Bill 100 on behalf of caucus members who oppose this attack on transgender students. We ask that this testimony be shared with all members of the committee, and be entered into the committee record for this bill.

This bill discriminates against transgender students in Wisconsin by denying transgender girls the opportunity to participate in girls' sports. All young people should have the opportunity to participate in school-sponsored athletics consistent with their gender identity without having to compromise who they are. Playing sports with their friends and classmates helps all kids feel like they belong—and any action to ban participation is invasive and infringes on athletes' privacy.

Categorical exclusion of transgender girls from participating in school sports alongside their peers is harmful because it singles out transgender youth and denies them the opportunities provided by organized sports and being part of a team. Studies have shown that participating in youth sports can lead to lifelong, positive impacts on a child's physical, mental, emotional, and social health. In addition to helping students stay fit and build physical activity into their lives, youth sports allow students to develop deep and lasting friendships with their peers. Athletes learn life skills such as empathy, leadership, perseverance, and teamwork that will help them throughout the rest of their lives. We know that access to youth sports is crucially important to every student's success.

This bill would additionally impact students' ability to participate in co-ed athletic activities. The language in this bill would specifically remove the ability for school districts to have co-ed interscholastic, intramural, and/or club athletic teams, taking away a unique team experience that students would previously have had in many schools across the state. Student athletes from Kindergarten to 12th grade already have the opportunity to be a part of a variety of co-ed teams, such as cross country, track and field, and wrestling teams in large and small school districts. Co-ed sports in particular encourage friendship and mutual respect and break down stereotypes.

The addition of language restricting access to locker rooms that targets transgender youth is incredibly dangerous in a time of increased bullying and violence against LGBTQ+ youth across the country. In Wisconsin, 72% of LGBTQ+ young people ages 13-17 reported being bullied because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. While this bill claims to protect students, it will open the door to bullying, increase social stigma, and make a long day at school already harder to endure. All students should have



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privacy in the locker room. This bill does nothing to increase locker room privacy, but instead signals out some of our most vulnerable students to have their privacy taken away.

This bill also likely violates federal law. In 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Bostock v. Clayton County* that federal bans on sex discrimination must be read to prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity. This means that where the federal government bans discrimination on the basis of sex, it also bans discrimination against transgender people.

Assembly Bill 100 was previously introduced in the 2023-2024 legislative session as 2023 Assembly Bill 377. Last session, members of this committee heard hours of testimony from those who shared how this bill would discriminate against and stigmatize kids in Wisconsin. Kids, parents, teachers, coaches, and others shared last session – and will share again this session – how the introduction of this bill is harmful and ostracizing to members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Although this bill will not become law in our state, its reintroduction alone is harmful. A recent national survey by the Trevor Project found that 91% of LGBTQ+ young people in Wisconsin reported that recent politics negatively impacted their well-being. In addition, 40% of LGBTQ+ young people and 45% of transgender and nonbinary young people reported that they or their family considered leaving Wisconsin for another state because of LGBTQ+ politics and laws.

Assembly Bill 100 would further stigmatize and isolate transgender kids, who are already vulnerable. A recent national survey by the Trevor Project found that 39% of LGBTQ+ young people in Wisconsin seriously considered suicide in the past year, including 44% of transgender and nonbinary youth. This bill will put the physical and mental health of transgender youth in Wisconsin at risk.

I ask that you not schedule Assembly Bill 100 for a vote. If AB 100 comes before you for a vote in this committee or on the Assembly floor, I ask that you vote no. This bill is deeply harmful, unnecessary, and dangerous. I hope that you will join the Legislative LGBTQ+ Caucus and people across Wisconsin in telling transgender and nonbinary youth in our state that they are seen, they are loved, and that they belong here in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Mark Spreitzer

Chair, Wisconsin LGBTQ+ Caucus

State Senator, 15th Senate District