

Statement of Connecticut Women's Rights and Gender Justice Organizations in Support of Full and Equal Access to Participation in Athletics for Transgender People

We, the undersigned Connecticut-based organizations committed to women's rights and gender justice, support the full inclusion of transgender people in athletics. We are in solidarity with Andraya Yearwood, Terry Miller, and all other transgender student athletes in the Constitution State. As organizations that care deeply about ending discrimination against women and girls, we support laws and policies that protect transgender people from discrimination, including in participation in sports.

Together, we reject unfounded fears about transgender athletes in our state and reject the suggestion that cisgender women and girls benefit from the exclusion of women and girls who happen to be transgender. Instead, we recognize that all women and girls are harmed when some are denied opportunities to participate in sports because of stereotypes and fear.

We proudly celebrate Andraya, Terry, and other transgender Connecticut athletes. We applaud the parents, teammates, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, and others who have welcomed transgender athletes with encouragement and respect. And we fully support Connecticut laws and policies designed to protect equal access to athletics for all women and girls, including those who happen to be transgender.

Nondiscrimination provisions protecting transgender people have rightly existed for years in Connecticut law and state athletic association policy. These laws and policies have allowed transgender people to participate equally in society, including in sports, without harming anyone else. Just like other female athletes, transgender student athletes have made important contributions to their teams, towns, and our state. In cases when they have achieved athletic success, they should be able to celebrate their hard-earned victories, just like every other student athlete.

Transgender girls are girls and transgender women are women. They are not and should not be referred to as boys or men, biological or otherwise. We speak from expertise when we say that nondiscrimination protections for transgender people — including women and girls who are transgender — advance women's equality and well-being. Equal participation in athletics for transgender women and girls advances fairness in sports and opportunities for all women to benefit from athletic participation and competition.

People are right to be concerned about sex discrimination in sports. Women and girls continue to fight for equal opportunities and resources at all levels of athletics. We know firsthand that equal opportunities for transgender people are part of the solution to sex discrimination. We will continue to spend our energy combating actual problems: stereotypes about women and girls' interest and ability to compete, lack of equal resources for girls' sports, pay inequity and other types of discrimination against women coaches and

professional women athletes, and sexual harassment that pushes women and girls out of sports. We will only accomplish these goals by treating all people, including transgender people, with fairness and respect.

ACLU of Connecticut

Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence

Connecticut TransAdvocacy Coalition

Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF)

GLSEN Connecticut

Hartford Psychological Services

Imperial Sovereign Court of All Connecticut, Inc.

LiveGirl

NARAL Pro-Choice Connecticut

New Haven Pride Center

outCT

Planned Parenthood of Southern New England

PRIDE New Haven

Q Plus

Triangle Community Center

True Colors