



## KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

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### Equality In Sports

Implementation of policies that single out one group while denying the rights of another are the reason agencies like ours exist. One cannot simply say this law applies to one group but not another, yet this law in §1(g)(2)(a) does just that. It states that an activity designated for girls shall not be open to members of the male sex. It goes on to follow up in (b) that nothing restricts the eligibility of ANY student to participate in activities for boys or coed. This mindset presupposes male superiority and seeks to further divide and alienate those who may fall between the cracks based on overly constrictive definitions of identity.

Further, legislation like this singles out students who may be transgender and thusly violating constitutional guarantees of equal protection. This law discriminates on the basis of sex and transgender status in violation of the right to equal protection guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681. To single out transgender students in this manner perpetuates discrimination and exclusion that stand in contrary to the equality we are all allegedly afforded and claim to stand for on a daily basis.

The opportunity to participate in sports is a foundational part of growth and understanding. In a world where we see a rise in hatred and discriminatory practices, one thing that rings true is how we are better when we are together. Sports unify diverse communities of students who now have a shared goal, and through that, learn a connectedness that preaches the importance of inclusion and acceptance. Diversity in race, sexual orientation or identity, levels of ability, and location allows students to learn that we may have differences, but we can always work together.

The spirit of our Commonwealth and of this agency is shared, that we are better when we are together. We cannot support legislation that further separates us and divides, and must work toward more inclusion, not less.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terrance A. Sullivan".

Terrance A. Sullivan  
Executive Director KCHR