

Chairman Feldman, Vice Chairwoman Kagan, Senator Carozza et al, members of the committee, distinguished guests of the legislature.

Hello. My name is Blaine Greene II. I'm writing today to request an unfavorable report for Senate Bill 0381, or the "Fairness in Girls Sports' Act." Before I begin my argument, I must underscore that this does not represent any governmental, cultural, educational or other type of organization with which I have, or have had, affiliation.

This bill is an improper boundary alteration between private expression and public service, forcing individuals into even narrower classifications that prove even less necessary or desirable. If we are attempting to enforce what a "woman" is versus what a "man" is today, then we have not learned from the ignorance of our parents, their parents, their parents' parents and so on.

For one thing, we are propagating the classification of men vs women in sports for no discernible reason. When we establish and affirm these divisions based on gender, we are disallowing the probability that some of our students or some of our kids do not ascribe to the gender of "man" or "woman."

In fact, I ask, "what is the purpose of holding onto biological sex as an objective definition of gender?" In addition, why are we concerned about the biological differences between males and females so much so that we are unwilling to have them compete against each other? I have been practicing the Korean martial art of taekwondo for the last fifteen years this April and I assure you that men and women have bested me without a second thought about my gender. In taekwondo, you are required to spar against your contemporaries, and I have been bested countless times in both practices and in state-wide competitions by men and women. That's not even mentioning the high likelihood of, unbeknownst to me (because it doesn't matter, all things considered), I could have sparred a transgender person or a non-binary person or a genderfluid person.

And yes, physical injuries *do* occur, but they do not only occur 1) at the hands of men; 2) against women; and 3) because the two genders were playing in the same game. I concede that those events are capable of occurring in the aforementioned manner, just as I concede that there have been individuals who have abused their transition to discriminate against and harm people. However, we should not focus on these instances as if they are representative of transgender people, especially of transgender youth who are already facing discrimination and harm whilst attempting to live their own lives.

It is insulting to imply that physical injury, mental stress or academic competition do not occur amongst male athletes. It is insulting to imply that sexual misconduct, sexual harassment or

anything akin to those violations do not occur amongst male athletes. It is insulting to imply that male athletes do not experience turnover on account of their teams losing.

In addition, it is understandable to conceive of gender transitions as relative to mental health distress but this should not inhibit a parent or teacher from speaking with kids or with students or with family members in public schools on their gender transition. We may very well associate gender transition with gender dysphoria and other examples of mental health distress, but we are not at a point in either science or culture where we can affirm that gender transition universally and objectively causes mental health distress.

Ultimately, this bill feigns interest in the physical, mental or academic well-being of our student athletes and continues to subject them to gender roles which do little, if anything, to aid the evolution of commonplace understandings of a complex concept like gender. The focus of concern revolves around the transgender woman, or an individual who was born as a man who transitions into women. I ask the committee: what about transgender men, or individuals born as women who transition into men?

In parting, I request any sponsors of the bill to reconsider who is being targeted today – it is not only biological women, but biological men, transgender men and women, non-binary, agender and genderfluid individuals. And as extensive as that list is by comparison, that is only the tip of the iceberg – one iceberg which we shall spend the rest of our lives and our kids the rest of theirs and their kids the rest of theirs breaking through. To quote Jed Bartlet, “every time we think we have measured our capacity to meet a challenge, we look up and we're reminded that that capacity may well be limitless.”

Thank you.