

HCS HBs 2734, 2197 & 2461 -- ATHLETIC COMPETITIONS

SPONSOR: Basye

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 8 to 4.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 2734.

This bill provides that no athletic team or sport designated for females, women, or girls may be open to students of the male sex as assigned at birth for games in the post-season or playoff season including, but not limited to, districts, conference, sectionals, state, or nationals.

No government entity or oversight body shall entertain a complaint, open an investigation, or take adverse action against a school or institution for maintaining separate athletic teams or sports for students of the female sex. No public or private school that has biological males as assigned at birth playing women's sports during the post-season or playoff seasons shall be eligible for any moneys appropriated by the General Assembly.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that athletic opportunities for female athletes are in question if biological males are allowed to compete. Biological men have an unfair advantage in sports competition over women and biological men should not be allowed to compete in women's sports. This bill protects women athletes, their right to fair competition, and the integrity of women's sports. Allowing biological males to compete in female sports continues a practice of unfair sex-based disadvantage for women. Female athletes are at risk for losing scholarship opportunities and collegiate experience if forced to compete against biological males. It is fair that athletes should compete against their biological peers in any athletic contest.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Basye; David A Larson; Rebecca White; Teresa Stone; Alan Genovese; Amy Reed; Jennifer Barker; Kathie Zuroweste; Kim Laird; Malinda Davies; Mendi Wormington; Mitchell Schubert; Robyn Ruesing; Becky Woods; Deborah A Hawley; Don Hinkle, The Pathway; Missouri Baptist Convention; Elizabeth A Morse; Janet Dabbs, Concerned Women for America of Missouri; Jeanette Maupin; Jenny Weber; Joan Rawson; Julie Turner; Karen Leydens; Kathy Forck; Kriket Riddle; Linda Schubert; Lori

Mueller; Peggy Gilkey; Savannah Jacocks; Sue Hellebusch; Celeste Williams; Debra Sullivan; Dennis R. Hrubes; Gary Farrar; Georjene Tilton; Glenda Gibson; Haven Howard; Jan Farrar; Jane Cantwell; Joy Labrie; Nicole Olszewski; Patti; Rachel Poston; Theresa L Wilcox; Bess Fitzmaurice; Brian Bollmann; Cynthia Redburn; Lindsay Rapp; Mary Cremer; Shannon Robinson; Susan Semple; Abby Schult; Alison Lessley; Amber Crawford; April Deters; Arlene Wagner; Becky Sturdefant; Bill Deters; Bridget Schmidt; Carol Pitzer; Cathern Long; Cedric Lee; Cheryl Bohl; Christine K White; Cindy Casper; Cindy Degendorf; Claudia Galbraith; Connie R Larson; Danny Woods; David Clouse; Dee Bray; Delmmar K. Mills; Don Riegert; Gail Park; Gerald W Moss; Geraldine Graves; Hannah Huff; Jane Louise Scheckel; Joanna K Boyer; John Hartley, 417 Youth Sports; Judith Moorefield; Judy Sofka, Missouri Precinct Project/MOPPP; Julia Sansone; Karen Shafferkoetter; Kat Martin; Kate Stratton; Katheirne Sickles; Kelly Bowen; Kim Shemwell; Kristin Eldridge; Laura Feldmann; Les Larson; Linda Tillinghast; Luke McFarland; Margaret Christine Yaudas; Margie Aherin; Marilyn L Schultheis; Mary Ann Coatney; Mary Sharon Rockley; Mary Whitby; Melissa Thomas; Melody Ball; Micheal Stout; Michelle Harrell; Nancy Barthelmas; Norma Putnam; Pat Vogler; Phyllis Georgeff; Rebecca Duchene; Roger A. Fries; Sandy Clouse; Sara Bohnert; Sharon Jackson; Stacy Winters; Susan Sansone; Alanda Powell; Debby Kluepfel; Deborah Ferguson; Edward (Tony) Shepherd; Kathleen A. Cunniff; Mike R Moorefield; Stacie Allen; Virginia C Campbell; Jordan Payne; Julie Crespo; Megan Woolworth; Tedi Payne; Andrew Donald Wells, No Left Turn in Education Missouri Chapter; Arnie C. Ac Dienoff; Beverley Fries; Colin Nichols; Janet L. Stark; Jerome Stephen Jacobsmeyer; Joshua Lehman; Kristine Warner; Laura Riley; Rhonda J. Crowe; Stephanie Boden; Stephanie Stokes; Tammy Thompson; Tate Thoreson; Jennifer Gore; Concerned Women for America of Missouri; Sara Barnard; Melissa Cromer; and Shannon Dunn.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that youth want the ability to be recognized for who they are. This bill unfairly discriminates against transgender youth and students, who deserve the same chances to learn teamwork, sportsmanship, leadership, and self-discipline, and to build a sense of belonging with their peers. Similar bills that have passed into law in other states are currently being challenged in court. This bill weaponizes sports against vulnerable youth. Sports governing bodies and experts have done exhaustive work and research to reach fair and balanced position on this issue, having implemented rigorous standards for participation in sports by transgender athletes. This bill undermines this work with government overreach. This bill is unnecessary and ultimately has the potential to causes great harm. Bills like this are consistently opposed by women athletes and do not address actual issues faced by women and girls in sports. This bill encourages bullying and strips fundamental rights of transgender youth.

Testifying against the bill were Nancy Goth; Rebecca Biermann; Abby Hollander, MD; Alicia Polk; Amanda Michel; Amy White; Andrea Britton; Ariel Buback; Ashley O'Daniel; Beth Newman; Christine M Novalis; Debra Stowell; Don Crozier; Eleanor Gund; Elisheva Sterling; Eric Hadley; Erin Tate; Gail Wechsler; George Hunt; Gwenna Hamilton; Heather Corder; Heather McCallister-Blinn; Jenna Roberson; Jessica Devoto; Kathleen Berberich; Katy, PROMO Fund; PROMO; Kendall Martinez-Wright; Kevin Fitzgerald; Lisa Thorp; Michael Bourbina; Michael Wagner; Nicolette Stilwell; Rebekah Berkowitz; Ronald Elder; Ryan Robinson; Ryan Tinker; Staci Diamond; Susan Dubois; Susan Gibson; Teresa Johnson; Teresa Steinkamp; Terica Donnelly; Theresa Loeffler; Tom Ferri; Victoria Godfrey-Zeller; Wendy Miller; Amy Salladay; Denise Bogard; Ian Wrobel; Shawna Scott; Sister Nancy Corcoran; Amy Kuo Hammerman, National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis; Carl Bettis; Jewish Community Relations Council; Dr. Michelle Jackson; Grayson Rosen; Janice Sitzes; Jennifer Pressy; Jodi Walsh; Justine Collum; Kathleen Balmer; Kelly Storck; Lacy Stroessner; Leslie Heberlie; Lynn Busby; Lynn Nienkemper; Michael Joshua Ryan; Michaela Kuba; Rebecca Scarborough; Samati Niyomchai; Victoria Cook; Missouri NEA; Beth Newman I; Dawn Banks; Dianne G'Sell; Emily Aceituno; Jason Reed; Lisa Spahr; Melody S Pryor; Naphtali Faris; Sally Bechhold; Sarah Nicole Marino; Andrew Kelly; Erin Tyree; James Cooper; Johnda Boyce; Katherine Sasser; Kerri Schafer; Kimberly Maxwell; Martha Bass; Michael Gendernalik; Stephanie Rittgers; Allyn Harris Dault; Amanda Knittel; Anna Shabsin; Becky Reed; Cameron Lee; Catherine Holmes; Derek W Thomas; Dr Quinn Jackson; Elizabeth Vanderheyden; Ellen Tietmeyer; Emily Hornstra; Emily Lessner; Emma Wickland; Genevieve Steidtmann; Heather Hurston Dagna; Jeff Hoese; Jenna Balmer; Jennifer Main; Jessica M Huff; Jordan Richards; Kathleen Hilmer-Kendall; Leora Spitzer; Leslie Bloom; Lori K King; Advocates of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Mo; Martha Echols; Michelle L Barry; Miles Rowe; Nicole Warren; Pam Hill; Rebecca Shaw; Ryan Cross; Scott McKellar; The Rev. Dr. Teresa Danieleley; Tracy Grundy; Alexander Singleton, Lucid Visions; Brigitte Sheridan; Jacqueline Bloom; Kristin Rehg; Laura Burkhardt; Marissa Polzin; Christine Brown; Yvonne D Reeves-Chong; Alicia Reed; Derrick Edwin Nowlin; Leah Patriarco; City of Kansas City, Kansas City Chamber of Commerce; Jessica Melendez Paterson; American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri; Taylor Tutin; Anneliese Schaefer; Pro Choice Missouri; Susan Halla; Clark Roman; Corey Hyman; Christine Hyman; Elise Hyman; John Hyman; Danielle Meert; Nick Zingarelli; Jennifer Harris Dault; James Thurow; Debi Jackson; Casey Pick, The Trevor Project; Pamela Boteler; Anne Lieberman, Attack Ally; John Bardgett; Rori Picker Neiss; Daniel Neiss; David Jackson, Greater St. Louis, Inc-Chamber STL; Felicia Abatgis Flynn; and Clarisse Teepe-Fryrear.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.