



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Brad Hoylman-Sigal

Statement Regarding Community Education Council District 2's Proposed Resolution #248 Targeting Transgender Girls in Sports

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| ISSUE: **LGBTQ EQUALITY, LGBT, TRANSGENDER EQUALITY, HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS**

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As LGBTQ elected officials representing vibrant and diverse districts in Manhattan that are covered by Community Education Council District 2 (CEC D2), we are outraged that CEC D2 is considering a resolution targeting transgender girls in sports.

It is utterly shocking that such a regressive and harmful resolution is being proposed in a school district that covers much of Manhattan, including the neighborhoods of Hell's Kitchen, Chelsea and Greenwich Village, the birthplace of the modern LGBTQ civil rights movement, and neighborhoods that are home to the largest LGBTQ communities in the United States.

As dictated by our human rights laws, transgender individuals, including transgender girls, have the same rights and opportunities as every other New Yorker. Denying them the ability to participate in sports aligned with their gender identity is flatly illegal under the NYC Human Rights Law and the NYS Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA).

Resolution #248 is based on the false premise that the gender identity policy negatively impacts female athletes, and stems from the misguided notion that the inclusion of transgender students in sports diminishes the experience of other student athletes.

In addition, this resolution not only goes against the principles of fairness and inclusion, but also perpetuates harmful stereotypes and bias against a population that is already subject to vicious discrimination and harassment.

Discriminating against transgender students not only harms the targeted individuals but also negatively impacts the entire school community.

It fosters a hostile environment that can lead to increased bullying, harassment, and violence, creating an unsafe atmosphere for all students. Additionally, discrimination undermines inclusivity, tolerance, and respect, essential values for a healthy and supportive learning environment for all students.

We stand firmly against any attempts to undermine the rights and dignity of transgender individuals and call on Community Education Council District 2 to reject resolution #248.

We expect the Department of Education to uphold the current inclusive gender guidelines and ensure that all students have the opportunity to participate in sports in a safe and supportive environment, regardless of their gender identity.

Discrimination has no place in our schools, city, or state, and we are proud that New York is a legal safe haven for transgender young people and their families.

We will not stand idly by while transgender students are threatened and victimized by the very people who are supposed to be protecting them.