



Society for Sexual, Affectional, Intersex, and Gender Expansive Identities’ Position Statement on Anti-Transgender Sports Bans and Laws

The Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2023 has been introduced to the U.S. House of Representatives. Similar bills have been introduced into more than twenty states in 2023 alone, and some have passed into law. These bills require schools and organizations to consider eligibility for sports on the basis of sex assigned at birth and are therefore discriminatory to intersex, transgender, and gender expansive individuals. These bills and laws are prejudice disguised as equality and misrepresent the complexities of biology. There is no scientific evidence that transgender or gender expansive children perform at a level that disadvantages their cisgender peers in sports. Laws that allow and/or mandate discrimination toward intersex, transgender, and gender expansive individuals are recognized by the Society for Sexual, Affectional, Intersex, and Gender Expansive Identities (SAIGE), a division of the American Counseling Association (ACA), to be harmful.

In the face of these bills and laws, SAIGE maintains the ACA’s commitment to advocate for nondiscrimination and the prevention of harassment. Per a position statement from the ACA, this commitment includes, but is not limited to, “access to learning environments that are free of discrimination, bullying, and harassment; access to restrooms and changing facilities that are safe and affirming for gender non-conforming youth and adults; and use of preferred names.” Laws that unfairly discriminate against intersex, transgender, and gender expansive individuals’ right to be accepted as their authentic selves can and often ultimately do precipitate mental health crises among intersex, transgender, and gender expansive youth. SAIGE recognizes these bills and laws have a negative psychological impact and stands in solidarity with intersex, transgender, and gender expansive individuals prejudicially targeted by these laws. SAIGE strongly opposes any discriminatory bills and laws that are in opposition to the ACA’s *Code of Ethics* and/or SAIGE’s *Competencies for Counseling with Transgender Clients*.

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