

1 **2021 RES-051**

2 **OPPOSING WISCONSIN ASSEMBLY AND SENATE BILLS CONCERNING THE ABILITY OF**
3 **TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS TO PARTICIPATE IN ATHLETICS**
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6 Wisconsin Assembly Bills (AB) 195 and 196 and Senate Bills (SB) SB 322 and SB 323 would
7 prohibit transgender students from participating in girls' and women's athletics in Wisconsin's
8 educational institutions from kindergarten through college.
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10 According to the Human Rights Campaign, laws that target transgender individuals sends a
11 message that these individuals are less worthy and less valued than others, which increases
12 stigma and contributes to harassment against these individuals. LGBTQ youth already face
13 discrimination, harassment, and poorer school outcomes because of gender expression and
14 gender. According to the 2019 report on school climate from GLSEN:

- 15 • 42.5% of LGBTQ students felt unsafe at school because of their gender expression, and
16 37.4% because of their gender.
- 17 • 77.6% of LGBTQ students avoided school functions and 71.8% avoided extracurricular
18 activities because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable.
- 19 • 59.1% of LGBTQ students reported personally experiencing LGBTQ related
20 discriminatory policies or practices at school, including 10.2% who were prevented or
21 discouraged from participating in school sports because they were LGBTQ.
- 22 • 56.9% of LGBTQ students experienced verbal harassment at school based on their
23 gender expression and 53.7% based on their gender.
- 24 • LGBTQ students who experienced higher levels of victimization based on their gender
25 expression were three times as likely to have missed school, had a lower grade point
26 average, had lower levels of self-esteem, and had higher levels of depression than
27 their peers who experienced less victimization. Of the LGBTQ students that
28 considered dropping out of school, 42.2% indicated that it was related to harassment
29 they faced at school and 30.1% said it was related to the hostile climate created by
30 gendered school policies and practices;

31 The Center for Disease Control and Preventions' 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) found
32 that one in three transgender youth reported attempting suicide, almost one-third reported being
33 a victim of sexual violence, and more than half reported a two-week period of depression.
34 According to a recently published article in the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), transgender
35 youth reported alarming levels of attempted suicide, with the highest rates among female to male
36 adolescents (50.8%), followed by adolescents who identified as not exclusively male or female
37 (41.8%), male to female adolescents (28.9%), questioning adolescents (27.9%), female
38 adolescents (17.6%), and male adolescents (9.8%).

39 On January 20, 2021, President Joe Biden signed an executive action on Preventing and
40 Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation which states in
41 part that, "Every person should be treated with respect and dignity and should be able to live
42 without fear, no matter who they are or whom they love. Children should be able to learn without
43 worrying about whether they will be denied access to the restroom, the locker room, or school
44 sports...All persons should receive equal treatment under the law, no matter their gender identity
45 or sexual orientation."

46 Fifteen states and Washington, D.C. – together home to more than 6.8 million high school
47 students - currently have trans-inclusive state athletic association guidance, and years of open
48 participation of transgender students in those locations have produced no evidence or harms to
49 cisgender people. The NCAA, the International Olympic Committee, and various amateur and
50 professional leagues have supported transgender athletic participation in accordance with their
51 gender identity since 2004;

52 Participation in sports is beneficial for healthy youth development, and promotes leadership, self-
53 esteem, discipline, community, and a sense of belonging. Inclusive LGBTQ school policies are
54 linked with lower suicide risk, higher grades, lower rates of depressive symptoms, and greater
55 feelings of school safety for LGBTQ students. According to a [CDC Morbidity & Mortality Weekly
56 Review article](#), taking steps to create safe learning environments and provide access to
57 culturally competent physical and mental health care are important steps to improving the
58 health of transgender youth.

59 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Dane County opposes AB 195, AB 196, SB 322,
60 and SB 323 as these bills fail to treat transgender and non-binary individuals with respect and
61 dignity, and will contribute to further stigmatization and harm against these individuals.

62 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Evers, the Dane
63 County legislative delegation, and members of school boards in Dane County.