



1201 16th St, N.W. | Washington, DC 20036 | Phone: (202) 833-4000

Rebecca S. Pringle
President

Princess R. Moss
Vice President

Noel Candelaria
Secretary-Treasurer

Kim A. Anderson
Executive Director

March 3, 2025

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 3 million members of the National Education Association, dedicated and trusted professionals who teach and support nearly 50 million students in public pre-K-12 schools, colleges, and universities across America, we urge you to vote **NO** on S.9, the so-called Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2025. Votes related to this bill may be included in the NEA Report Card for the 119th Congress.

NEA members oppose S. 9 because it would exclude transgender students from participating in activities and opportunities that should be available to *all* students.

S.9 does not strengthen Title IX or protect girls and women in sports. It does nothing to promote equity in resources, funding, or opportunity, or to tackle the sexual abuses of athletes and subsequent cover-ups that have occurred in women's sports. The bill's purpose is to further divide our nation, and it is using an extremely vulnerable population to do so.

S.9 will degrade transgender students' emotional and mental health. Research in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* reports that 82% of transgender people have considered suicide, and more than 40% have attempted it, with the [risk of suicide highest among youth](#). In addition, in states where legislatures passed laws restricting the rights of transgender and non-binary people, [suicide attempts by transgender youth increased by as much as 72%](#) in the subsequent years, according to a Trevor Project study. The peer-reviewed study, based on laws passed from 2018 to 2022, was published in 2024 in the journal *Nature Human Behaviour*.

S.9 would compound feelings of isolation and "otherness" by excluding transgender students from participating in sports. Participation in sports not only cultivates meaningful bonds within the school community that many people treasure well into adulthood; participation also develops skills such as communication, teamwork, and leadership. All students should have the opportunity to cultivate these skills because they are crucial in building families and careers, and contributing to our communities.

S.9 would subject students, whether or not they are transgender, to invasions of privacy. These could include obsessive policing and monitoring of young people's bodies in attempts to investigate and determine a student's gender. Such actions would not only harm and humiliate individuals, but are privacy invasions that no legislative chamber, particularly the federal government, should be involved in.

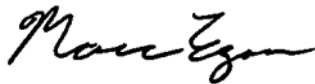
S.9 erodes the fairness and equity that generations of Americans have struggled to achieve. It is a dangerous, mean-spirited attempt to erase transgender youth from public life that violates our fundamental rights and values. By legalizing discrimination, the bill weakens our democracy.

History is full of horrific examples of what happens when laws are implemented that ostracize specific groups and restrict their opportunities to thrive. Not only do the individuals suffer greatly, but our collective humanity is diminished. As Dr. King said, we are all “caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

Educators throughout our nation understand this perhaps better than most, because their careers are devoted to seeing and appreciating students’ individuality. Educators urge that instead of focusing on distractions, you work with them to address: gun violence; the dire shortage of educators; students’ need for school-based mental health care; and the need for resources to provide one-on-one attention and the latest technology, textbooks, and learning materials.

Please ensure that students across our great nation—no matter their race, background, sexual orientation, or gender identity—are respected and have the educational and extra-curricular opportunities they need and deserve. **Vote NO on S.9.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc Egan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association