

## Talking about the blanket ban on transgender girls playing school sports

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After spending more than \$200M in attack ads against transgender people and their rights, Republicans are, unsurprisingly, prioritizing these attacks in Congress. **One of the first bills being brought up by leadership in both the House and Senate is the “Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act,” a blanket ban on transgender girls playing school sports at every age and level of competition.** While the House and Senate versions have minor differences, both pieces of legislation threaten to revoke federal funding from schools that allow transgender girls to play on girls’ sports teams, essentially implementing a nationwide ban.

The reality is that while voters hold complex views on transgender people and sports participation, the majority do not support these blanket bans and understand that reasonable rules should be put in place by sports associations, not politicians. In fact, [recent polling from Change Research](#) shows that **more than half (55%) of battleground voters say politicians should let local schools and sports associations set policies around transgender athletes’ participation in sports.**

### Top Line Messages from our friends at Third Way:

- We all want sports to be fair and student athletes to be safe. That’s why school districts and sports associations make rules about who can participate in different sports at different levels across a range of issues, including this one. **They don’t need politicians in Washington overriding their expertise and governing bodies with a one-size-fits-all blanket ban from the top down for every age and sport.**
- **A nationwide sports ban like this one would be bad for all women and girls.** Enforcing this policy would require young girls to answer invasive personal questions about things like their menstrual cycle, or even undergo physical inspections, if they want to play sports. That is a major violation of privacy and opens the door for more abuse in women’s athletics.
- If passed, this legislation would also invite people to question the gender of girls who don’t look stereotypically feminine, leading to more harassment and bullying.
- **Participating in sports teaches important values like perseverance, dedication, self-assurance, and teamwork.** We should want more young people to play sports, not put up more barriers for girls across the country that subject them to invasive interrogation or make them risk public ridicule in order to join a sports team.

### Messaging Resources:

[Third Way: Talking about the “Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act”](#)

[Movement Advance Project: Talking About Transgender Youth Participation in Sports](#)