



Text File

Introduced: 3/29/2021

Bill No: 2021-1355, **Version:** 1

Committee: City Council

Status: Adopted

WHEREAS, as of March 13, 2021, twenty-nine states had filed legislation to limit transgender athletes from participating in sports, as well as the federal bill, H.R. 8932, "Protect Women's Sports Act"; and,

WHEREAS, these legislative attempts are continued attacks against the LGBTQ+ community that occurred under the Trump Administration; and,

WHEREAS, limiting access to sports negatively impacts mental health, where the physical and psychological benefits of school sport participation are wide ranging and not limited to lower rates of obesity, anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts as well as increased self-confidence and self-esteem and connectedness to school and community connectedness; and,

WHEREAS, according to a 2019 Youth Risk Behavior State and Local Survey, a representative study of individuals in grades 9 through 12, 44 percent of transgender youth reported considering committing suicide compared to 19 percent of cisgender students; and,

WHEREAS, on President Joe Biden's first day of office he signed an executive order that mandates blanket inclusion for all transgender athletes and directs the federal government to fully implement the Supreme Court's decision in *Bostock vs. Clayton County, Georgia*, which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in school and sports settings; and,

WHEREAS, The Women's Sports Foundation, a leading advocate of equity in sports, maintains that the Equal Protection Clause in the U.S. Constitution as well as Title IX prohibit sex discrimination, and includes protections to transgender students and athletes; and,

WHEREAS, according to the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), the State of Pennsylvania is one of ten states without an official policy for non-discrimination against transgender athletes, therefore leaving it up to the school or institution's discretion; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Pittsburgh is a city that prides itself on its sports and is committed to creating a welcoming and supportive environment for LGBTQ+ individuals; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Pittsburgh must continue to pursue policies to advance equity and prohibiting transgender athletes from participating in sports runs counter to our commitment to building a more inclusive future for our children.

Introduced: 3/29/2021

Bill No: 2021-1355, **Version:** 1

Committee: City Council

Status: Adopted

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, Pittsburgh City Council denounces the attempts of state and federal legislators to prohibit transgender athletes from participating in sports on the youth and collegiate level and urges sports programs, both youth and collegiate, within the state to adopt and support transgender inclusive policies for their teams.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Will of Council shall be sent to the Allegheny County delegation of the Pennsylvania House and Senate, the chairs and minority chairs of the State House and Senate Education Committees, Governor Tom Wolf, Pennsylvania Acting Secretary of Education Noe Ortega, Congressman Mike Doyle, Senator Pat Toomey, and Senator Bob Casey.