

IL26-638

Mandating Invasive Sex-Verification Exams for Girls in School Sports

Filed by Let's Go Washington in June 2025 and certified by the Secretary of State in January 2026, **IL26-638** would require any girl seeking to participate in K-12 school sports in Washington to obtain a signed statement from a health care provider verifying her reproductive anatomy, genetic makeup, or testosterone levels. **NAACP State Area Conference of Alaska, Oregon & Washington urges every voter to vote NO.**

200,000+

WA GIRLS IN GRADES 6-12 SPORTS

<1%

ESTIMATED TO BE TRANSGENDER

~800

WIAA MEMBER SCHOOLS AFFECTED

WHAT IL26-638 WOULD ACTUALLY CHANGE

- Requires girls, and only girls, to undergo verification of anatomy, genetic makeup, or hormone levels before playing school sports, with a signed statement from a health care provider.
- Prohibits biologically male students from competing with or against girls in any activity intended for female students.
- Ends Washington's current student-centered policy, set by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and administered by the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA).

WHY THIS MATTERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

NAACP AOWSAC POLICY PERSPECTIVE

This kind of scrutiny has a long, documented history of falling hardest on Black women and girls, from international athletes forced to prove their sex through invasive testing, to the everyday policing of how Black girls' bodies are perceived. IL26-638 imports that same suspicion into Washington's middle and high school locker rooms, for a policy meant to address a problem state officials say affects only a small handful of students statewide. Girls without a long-term family doctor able to certify their sex from years of medical history, disproportionately girls from low-income, rural, Black, brown, and immigrant families, would face the steepest, most cost-prohibitive barriers to proving eligibility.

THE SCIENCE AND THE LAW

There is no clear, consistent scientific evidence that transgender girls have a significant competitive advantage in youth sports, particularly when hormone therapy begins before or shortly after puberty. Athletic performance is shaped by a complex mix of genetics, training, nutrition, and psychology, not by a single verifiable trait. A federal court reached a similar conclusion in *Hecox v. Little* (2020), striking down a comparable Idaho law as a violation of the Equal Protection Clause. Then-League of Women Voters national president Dr. Deborah Turner called that law "an egregious example of sex discrimination...which will disproportionately target women and girls of color."

NAACP AOWSAC POSITION: VOTE NO ON IL26-638

VERIFY IT YOURSELF & LEARN MORE

- Official certified ballot text, Washington Secretary of State
sos.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2026-03/INITIATIVE_IL26-638_fulltext.pdf
- RCW 28A.642.080: Transgender student policy and procedure
app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=28A.642.080
- OSPI Gender-Inclusive Schools guidance
ospi.k12.wa.us/policy-funding/equity-and-civil-rights/information-families-civil-rights-washington-schools/gender-inclusive-schools
- Gender Diverse Youth Sport Inclusivity Toolkit
genderdiversity.org/gender-diverse-youth-sport-inclusivity-toolkit