

# SB 218 FAQS

## YOUR VOICE MATTERS.

### What is SB 218?

SB 218 is a Michigan bill that, if passed, will deny transgender high school students from participating on sports teams that affirm their gender identity and force them to compete on teams that match the gender assigned to them at birth.

## CONTACT YOUR SENATOR!

SEND A MESSAGE TO  
OPPOSE THIS BILL AT:

[action.aclu.org/send-  
message/support-trans-athletes](https://action.aclu.org/send-message/support-trans-athletes)

sage

METRO DETROIT

*Who proposed the bill and why?  
Some argue that this bill will prevent transgender girls from taking scholarship opportunities away from their cisgender counterparts. Senator Lana Theis, who introduced the bill, has yet to provide an example of any high school girls losing scholarship opportunities due the participation of a transgender athlete.*

### **Why is SB-218 so important?**

Bills like this have been proposed in at least 20 other states and can have a huge impact on transgender teenagers throughout the country. Denying students from participating in high school sports is not only discriminatory, but can have a negative impact on the students' lives. High school students who play sports have higher rates of self-esteem and better grades.

### **Do trans athletes have an unfair advantage over other athletes?**

No. Research shows that transgender athletes do not have an unfair physical advantage over other athletes. Transgender boys and girls have been participating in school sports in accordance with their gender identity for years, and there have been no findings of unfair competitive physical advantage.

### **Where does the Michigan High School Athletic Association stand on SB 218?**

The Michigan Association of High School Athletics, the National Women's Law Center, the Women's Sports Foundation, and the Women Leaders in College Sports all support trans-inclusive sports participation policies and oppose legislation like SB 218.

### **I am not transgender. Why should I care?**

This bill is part of a larger "divide and conquer" tactic among several anti-LGBTQ organizations to gut recent protections that our community has gained and pit LGBTQ community members against each other. We cannot fall for this ploy. Not surprisingly, many of these bills emerged immediately after marriage equality. The recent Supreme Court decision finding that federal employment nondiscrimination laws cover LGBTQ people was sparked because of a series of cases brought by transgender employees. Transgender activists, particularly transgender women of color, led many of the earlier protests in New York, Detroit, and other cities throughout the country in the 1960s and beyond that have raised awareness and garnered rights for our entire community. We cannot sit on the sidelines when dangerous policies harm the transgender community.