



September 30, 2014

David Stead, Executive Director
Minnesota State High School League
2100 Freeway Boulevard
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430-1735

VIA EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Dear Mr. Stead,

AMERICAN CIVIL
LIBERTIES UNION OF
MINNESOTA FOUNDATION
2300 MYRTLE AVENUE
SUITE 180
SAINT PAUL, MN 55114
T/651.645.4097
F/651.647.5948
support@aclu-mn.org
www.aclu-mn.org

The ACLU of Minnesota is pleased to see you stand by your decisions to consider rule changes to allow transgender students to participate equally in high school sports teams. The attack by the group opposed to your efforts could be viewed at best as mean spirited distortions of the truth and at the worst as noxious lies. Standing firm to these slurs represents the best kind of behavior we have come to expect from those who serve in our communities and our schools.

We are talking about our children. They require our support and our consideration/kindness/love as they grow to adulthood. Like all teenagers they are sensitive, unsure in their place in society, and uncomfortable in their changing bodies. We all have an obligation to treat them equally with their classmates – not to imply that they are somehow monsters or to imply that they will attack other children.

To that end, we urge you to restore language from a previous policy draft that ensures that transgender children are able to use the same facilities as other children of their gender. If privacy is an issue, we would suggest modifications such as shower curtains and private showers for all students. Dozens of states have already instituted such programs with no reports of problems.

Finally, thank you again for your first steps in this journey. We ask you, given the push back from the hateful groups that oppose transgender equality, to complete the whole journey now. Consider the children as you always have and don't let the shrill cries of a small group keep you from doing what you know to be right.

Sincerely,

Charles Samuelson
Executive Director

