

Subject: Letter of Support for Trans Rights and Trans Athletes' Rights to Participate in Sports

On behalf of the Associated Students at San José State University (SJSU), the official voice of over 36,000 students, I write to express our unequivocal support for the rights of transgender and nonbinary individuals, particularly their right to participate in sports in alignment with their gender identity. The growing wave of anti-trans legislation and policy changes across the United States presents an urgent threat to transgender rights, inclusivity, and equity.

As the largest state university system in the country, the California State University (CSU) system serves a student body that includes thousands of transgender and nonbinary individuals. With an estimated 220,000 transgender adults residing in California, we have a moral and institutional responsibility to protect their rights. Unfortunately, the landscape of trans rights in the U.S. has become increasingly hostile:

- In 2024, **672 anti-trans bills** were introduced nationwide, with **50 passed across 43 states**.
- As of **March 2025**, **16 anti-trans bills** have been signed into law, with another **662 active across 49 states**.
- President Trump's **Executive Orders 14168 & 14187** have eliminated federal recognition of gender identity, restricted access to gender-affirming healthcare, and jeopardized funding for institutions supporting transgender individuals.
- **H.R.28** ("Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2025") and the executive order **"Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports"** explicitly ban transgender women from participating in women's and girls' sports in federally funded institutions, which directly impacts CSU student-athletes.
- From the **2022 U.S. Transgender Survey**:
 - Transgender individuals face severe levels of discrimination and violence, with nearly **30%** experiencing **homelessness** in their lifetime and **3%** being **physically attacked** in the past year due to their gender identity (approx. 2770 individuals)
 - Systemic barriers begin early, as nearly **80%** of transgender individuals who were out or perceived as trans in K-12 faced **harassment, bullying, or mistreatment** from classmates or faculty, contributing to long-term social and economic instability
- Transgender individuals face disproportionate **rates of mental health challenges**, with **51% of respondents in the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey** reporting suicide attempts and various clinical studies demonstrate that transgender individuals face higher rates of depression and anxiety compared to their cisgender counterparts.

Given this alarming context, we urge you to take immediate and decisive action to support transgender and nonbinary individuals by:

1. **Advocating against legislative efforts that discriminate against trans and nonbinary student-athletes**, including opposing "Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports" and H.R.28.
2. **Supporting the passage of a constitutional Transgender Bill of Rights** to safeguard trans individuals' rights in education, healthcare, employment, and public accommodations.
3. **Encouraging the CSU system and higher education institutions** to uphold policies that protect transgender students from discrimination and affirm their right to continue competing in collegiate sports.
4. **Calling for the introduction of federal legislation** protecting transgender and nonbinary athletes and service members, countering exclusionary policies like "Prioritizing Military Excellence and Readiness."
5. **Ensuring CSU-wide resources, training programs, and policies** provide comprehensive support for transgender students across all campuses.

San José State University has a long history of advocating for social justice and civil rights, and we must reaffirm our commitment to creating a campus environment that is inclusive, equitable, and supportive of all students. We call on you to join us in standing against discrimination and ensuring that transgender and nonbinary students can fully participate in athletics and campus life without fear of exclusion or harm.

We appreciate your leadership and commitment to equity, and we look forward to working together to protect and uphold the rights of all students. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ariana Lacson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ariana Lacson
SJSU A.S. Student Body President

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