



Together We Win: Fight for the T in Team.

Across all races, genders, and backgrounds, our communities will keep fighting for a world where trans youth can thrive, on the field and far beyond it.

Oral Arguments for BPJ & Hecox cases
Tuesday, January 13, 2026
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
U.S. Supreme Court

On January 13, 2026, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in two cases challenging state bans that block transgender girls and women from participating in school sports: *West Virginia v. B.P.J.* and *Little v. Hecox*.

Every student deserves a safe, welcoming learning environment and the freedom to participate in school life, including athletics, without discrimination. AAUW supports transgender and nonbinary students. We advocate strong civil rights enforcement and policies that ensure LGBTQ+ students can learn, thrive, and be safe in school.

AAUW is proud to be part of a national coalition led by the ACLU, Lambda Legal, the Transgender Law Center, and GSA Network. Together, we are standing with “Team Trans Youth” and making it clear: we fight for students’ right to be themselves, belong, and thrive. On January 13, coalition partners will host a rally at the Supreme Court from 10:00 am – 1:30 pm ET in support of Team Trans — defending sports and schools for all.

ABOUT THE CASES

West Virginia v. B.P.J. - This case challenges West Virginia’s ban on transgender girls participating in school sports. The lawsuit was brought on behalf of Becky Pepper-Jackson, a student who wants to run cross-country and track with her friends.

Little v. Hecox - This case challenges Idaho's 2020 law banning transgender athletes and allowing invasive "sex testing" provisions. The lawsuit was brought by students challenging the law's discrimination, privacy harms, and the way it invites suspicion and harassment.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Sports are one place where students build teamwork, leadership, confidence, and belonging. Blanket bans send a message that some students don't belong, and they invite harassment and intrusive "gender policing" of all girls — especially Black girls and other students who don't fit stereotypes.

These cases are about more than sports. West Virginia and Idaho's bans are part of a coordinated push to exclude transgender and nonbinary people from public life — and to weaken civil rights protections for all LGBTQ+ people.

The Court will consider whether these bans violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution — and, in *West Virginia v. B.P.J.*, whether the state's ban violates Title IX's protections against sex discrimination in education.

TAKE ACTION

This isn't a mandate — it's an invitation. No matter how you're showing up, speaking out, or spreading the word, there's a role for every AAUW member and every branch.

- Attend the DC rally on January 13 — or join a local activation near you. RSVP: act.aclu.org/a/bpj-hecox-rally
- Post on social media using #FightForTheT and #AAUW (and tag your local AAUW branch).
- Send a message of support to transgender students and families in your community — and speak up when misinformation spreads.

SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

1. On Jan. 13, SCOTUS will hear two cases about trans students' freedom to play sports and belong at school: *West Virginia v. B.P.J.* and *Little v. Hecox*. AAUW stands with trans students — because schools should be safe for all. #FightForTheT #AAUW
2. We're showing up for Team Trans. Blanket sports bans don't protect women's sports — they fuel harassment and intrusive policing of girls' bodies. Leave no teammate behind. #FightForTheT #AAUW

SAMPLE SIGN MESSAGES

- Trans Rights are Human Rights
- Let Kids Play
- Dignity. Safety. Belonging.
- Protect Trans Students | Protect Title IX
- Stop Policing Girls' Bodies
- Schools for All

Safety & Guidance: AAUW has also developed [guidance on participation in public demonstrations](#). For additional safety tips and mobilization information, visit the [No Kings website](#).

TALKING POINTS

Core messages to lead with:

- Every student deserves dignity, respect, and the freedom to be themselves — in school, in sports, and in their communities.
- Public schools should be safe for all students. Politicians shouldn't use kids to score points or divide communities.
- We can support fairness and safety in sports without targeting transgender kids or singling students out for harassment.

What's at stake

- These bans don't solve real challenges in women's sports — like unequal resources, funding, and opportunity. They create new harms: bullying, privacy invasions, and suspicion toward any girl who doesn't fit stereotypes.
- Blanket bans put all girls at risk of intrusive scrutiny. If someone thinks a girl is "too tall" or "too strong," these laws invite calls for a "gender check." That's dangerous and discriminatory.
- Laws that target transgender youth put all women and girls at risk — particularly Black women and girls and others who don't fit narrow stereotypes of how girls "should" look, speak, or act.

Why we're showing up

- Participating in sports teaches perseverance, dedication, confidence, and teamwork. We should want more young people to play sports — not fewer.

- Local schools and athletic associations are equipped to handle participation in ways that are practical and student-centered. Politicians are imposing blanket bans that create fear and division.
- When they come for one group's rights, it threatens all of our rights. The fight for trans students is part of the fight for civil rights and safe, inclusive schools for everyone.
- No matter what the Supreme Court decides, we won't leave teammates behind. We're committed to defending every student's right — transgender or not — to learn, belong, and thrive.

Optional credibility/support line (use if helpful)

- These bans have been opposed by leading athletes and advocates for women's sports and girls' participation, including Billie Jean King, Megan Rapinoe, Sue Bird, Dawn Staley, the Women's Sports Foundation, and others.

Additional questions? Email us at advocacy@aauw.org.