

WSPTA Encourages a No Vote on IL-638

Washington State PTA · November 2026 General Election

Our focus is welcoming, safe schools for all kids: Washington State PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality. Public school sports should build confidence, teamwork, and healthy habits—not create barriers that exclude students or single them out for unfair scrutiny.

Voting "No" preserves established sports policies: Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) and local school districts already have balanced, functional guidelines for athletic eligibility. IL-638 replaces objective and agreed upon participation requirements with a statewide mandate that harms student well-being.

Key Talking Points:

1. The Burden is One Way (Invasive and Unfair only to Girls' sports)

- **Invasive physical verifications:** To participate in school athletics, female students must submit a personal healthcare provider's statement verifying their anatomy, genetics, or hormone levels.
- **Puts private health information at risk:** In this age of instant data sharing and breaches, every additional location of a medical record increases risk. Requiring young girls to turn over sensitive medical paperwork to school administrators or sports leagues compromises student medical privacy long term.

2. Discrimination and Student Harm

- **Discrimination by design:** IL-638 specifically singles out our girls for added scrutiny, medical costs, and administrative barriers to take part in scholastic sports. Denying them the proven social, emotional, and physical benefits of school sports while forcing broad disclosure that puts them directly in harm's way is precisely the impact of the proposed law change, regardless of the proponent's intent.
- **Risks forced outing and mental health distress:** Forcing intimate medical checks into routine school participation creates hostile school environments for gender non-conforming students and jeopardizes mental health.

3. A Solution in Search of a Problem

- **Existing rules already work:** School districts and the WIAA already evaluate sports eligibility thoughtfully without sweeping mandates.

- **Built on a false premise:** The measure claims to protect girls' sports, but its actual effect is adding bureaucratic hurdles, costly medical appointments, and barriers to entry for every girl who wants to play interscholastic sports

Quick 30-Second Elevator Pitch

"Washington State PTA encourages a NO vote on IL-638 because it places in law discriminatory practices against students based on sex, which is against the WSPTA platform. It creates an unfair, invasive mandate where girls must get doctor notes verifying their anatomy, genetics, or hormones just to play interscholastic sports, while boys face no such hurdle. Our children join sports to learn teamwork and stay active; We should be encouraging all kids to participate, not creating costly invasive medical barriers that harm students."

Here are plain-talk talking points on IL26-638 drawn to share with neighbors, parents, and community members:

1. It is unfair and one-sided by design

- **The issue:** The initiative creates a one-way rule in our state's sex-equity laws that targets only female students and is too vague to enforce fairly.
- **Plain talk:** It singles out girls' sports while leaving boys' sports completely untouched. Instead of protecting equity, it creates an uneven standard that brings confusion and inconsistent treatment across schools.

2. It harms kids' privacy and well-being

- **The issue:** It forces costly and clinically unnecessary intimate medical exams or tests as a requirement to play, while forcing risky disclosures for transgender and gender non-conforming youth.
- **Plain talk:** No young person should have to undergo a clinically unnecessary invasive physical exam or hand over private medical history just to play interscholastic sports. Forcing students to reveal sensitive personal information creates real safety, bullying, and mental health risks.

3. It is sold on a misleading premise

- **The issue:** Sponsors frame the measure as a minor update to current Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) procedures, but requiring healthcare-verified

gender disclosures to schools is nowhere in current policy and is not considered standard of care for sports physicals.

- **Plain talk:** This isn't a routine tweak to existing school sports rules. Current policies do not require doctors to certify a student's biological sex to the school, making this a brand-new, invasive mandate masquerading as standard practice. For these very reasons, non-clinicians have no business opining or attempting to write laws establishing medical standards.

4. It goes against accepted medical standards

- **The issue:** None of the three verification methods outlined in the initiative are standard practice or medically necessary, and the proposed testosterone testing cannot do what the measure expects.
- **Plain talk:** Many medical professionals and major medical organizations are not in support of this initiative. Without clinical indications insurance plans will not cover these tests and exam. The tests and checks the measure asks for are not standard medical care, they are not necessary, and lab tests like testosterone levels simply do not provide the definitive answers the law claims they do.

5. It is completely out of proportion

- **The issue:** There are only about 10 known transgender student athletes across more than 200,000 participating students, yet every single girl faces the burden of verification.
- **Plain talk:** This sets up a massive bureaucratic barrier for every single girl in Washington school sports to target a tiny handful of students statewide. Every girl will have to navigate intrusive hurdles just because the initiative forced the state to apply an extreme, heavy-handed mandate.