

# OPPOSE

# HB23, SB83

## ANOTHER ATTACK ON LGBTQ KY KIDS

### HB 23 & SB 83 ARE UNNECESSARY, HARM KY KIDS & BUSINESS

- **All kids want to play sports for the same reasons—to play with their friends, get a good education, and be happy and healthy, including transgender kids.** Every child should have the opportunity to play in sports that help them stay active and learn about teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship.
- **The current Kentucky High School Activities Association (KHSAA) policy on transgender student athletes is already one of the most restrictive in the U.S.** We are unaware of any transgender girls currently playing on Kentucky high school girls sports teams because of the KHSAA policy restrictions.
- **By including collegiate athletics, HB 23 and SB 83 run afoul of NCAA rules, threatening Kentucky's participation in NCAA sports and championship tournaments.** The NCAA's recent guidance asks each sport's national governing body to determine rules that balance fairness and inclusion. These decisions are best left to the experts in each sport alongside medical professionals.
- **The bill will trigger a lawsuit and federal courts have overwhelmingly ruled in favor of transgender rights in recent years.** Many federal courts have upheld LGBTQ and transgender rights, including numerous rulings on Title IX protections for transgender students. Idaho recently passed a law restricting transgender student athletes, and Chief Judge David Nye of the U.S. District Court of Idaho, who was nominated by President Donald Trump and confirmed 100-0 by the U.S. Senate, ruled against it. There is also an injunction against West Virginia's law and pending lawsuits against similar bans in Tennessee, Florida, and more.
- **HB 23 puts some of Kentucky's most vulnerable kids in the crosshairs—again.** Beginning with "Bathroom Bills" several years ago, national organizations have prioritized different versions of legislation targeting transgender youth in dozens of states. Because of the difficulties and discrimination they face, more than half of transgender youth have seriously considered suicide, according to the Trevor Project's *2020 National Survey on LGBTQ Mental Health*. Over two-thirds of LGBTQ youth said recent debates over state laws that target transgender people have negatively impacted their mental health, according to a 2022 Trevor Project poll. Legislation like HB 23 and SB 83 contribute to the climate of negative messages and exclusion transgender youth face.
- **150+ major employers, including Amazon, Brown-Forman Corporation, and PepsiCo, oppose attacks on trans kids like HB 23 and SB 83.** They released a letter recently stating their firm opposition to this legislation. It has been emailed to each member.

