

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

I write to you today as the daughter of a college athletic director (who is in the NJCAA Coaches Hall of Fame) and who coached sub-4-minute-milers throughout my youth.

I write to you today as the wife of a school teacher who coached middle school soccer and basketball for years before becoming an adjunct professor and small business owner who coaches soccer at the elementary/travel level.

I write to you today as someone who had a work-study job in college as the manager of a Division I soccer team and who spent the summer of 1994 running a crew of volunteers for the World Cup Soccer Organizing Committee.

I write to you as the parent of two cisgender athletes who play travel soccer.

I say all this to highlight that sports and competition have always been an integral part of my life and family.

And I write to you today to urge you not to ban transgender athletes from competing on the team that most aligns with their gender identity and expression. Because no matter how much I value sports, I value human life more.

[The suicide statistics for LGBTQIA+ students are chilling](#), and make no mistake, bans like the one Pennsylvania is considering contribute to the alienation of students that in turn can contribute to suicidal ideation and action.

[I urge you to follow the facts and the science.](#)

That's what good leaders do. They make informed decisions based on facts, and they bring people with them.

Jamie Beth Cohen Schindler
Mountville, PA
Lancaster County