

Members of the Colorado Title Board  
Wednesday, April 3, 2024  
Remarks in response to Initiative #220

My name is Rogena Johnson and I am submitting remarks for the record on the concerns I have regarding single subject in Initiative #220. I am a parent and grandparent who seeks for my family members to feel safe, included, and affirmed in all aspects of their life. I am also President of PFLAG Fort Collins and speak on behalf of a host of parents, families, friends, and allies of the LGBTQ+ community, and specifically those who have transgender loved ones whom this initiative targets.

A major concern for me is the broad definition of “public schools” in Initiative #220, which includes any organization that “hosts, organizes, or facilitates” public school athletics. This means that #220 will cover virtually all schools, including private schools whose students compete against a public school. It also means that if PFLAG kids practice at the local recreation center or in a private gym, then these entities, who only provide space to facilitate practices, would have to redefine their sports to adhere to this initiative. This would mean that these kids would either be denied playing in sports at their local recreation center or be forced to participate as someone they are not. Similarly, if an organization is hosting a game at a school after hours, they would have to also adhere to this initiative, even if it’s after school hours. The reach of Initiative #220 goes beyond public schools and would also redefine sports played in private organizations. For my family, and PFLAG families, it means that there would be no otherwise safe space which is not covered by this Initiative. This goes beyond a single subject and makes this initiative far-reaching beyond what voters would expect it to cover.

In addition, the Initiative seeks to include intramural sports. Intramural games and sports are meant to foster a sense of community and are a space where students can engage in a sport without having to be highly competitive, and without focusing on the outcome and potential scholarship opportunities. My kids, and a majority of the population, will never go on to have a career in competitive sports. When participating in intramural activities, my kids enjoy the camaraderie and life lessons they learn about teamwork and acceptance of others while helping them stay in shape. This is a significantly different environment for individuals who participate in intramurals when compared to participation in varsity and club sports. Intramural sports and varsity sports have two different goals and impacts in young people’s lives and are, therefore, two subjects.

The true intent of this measure is to specifically ban transgender women from participation in sports. The language of the Initiative goes far beyond this intent and prevents my family and many other PFLAG families from participating fully in life.

Thank you for your time,

Rogena Johnson  
Larimer County Registered Elector  
President, PFLAG Fort Collins