

This bill is nothing more than an attempt to undermine the sovereignty of private learning institutions by providing them with an ultimatum. This bill stipulates that unless private schools agree to comply with the established rules, a school is not eligible to participate in interscholastic activities.

As shown in Section 10 Part E, this bill explicitly "limits participation in interscholastic activities by private schools to private schools that are registered, as provided by sections 1 to 5 of this 2021 Act."

As a high school student currently attending a private school, I can see the horrible repercussions this bill will have. My cross country and track seasons will be cut. My team will no longer take home trophies. My peers will no longer compete in soccer matches, volleyball games, gold rounds, etc. If sports are generally seen as imperative to student education and social development. According to the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine and the Royal College of Psychiatrists:

"Physical activity can increase self-esteem and reduce depression and anxiety in children (12). We also know that physical activity performed in an outdoor space can improve cognitive performance, self-esteem and reduce anxiety and symptoms related to attention deficit disorder (13). There needs to be clear pathways safeguarding vulnerable adults and children suffering from mental health issues when participating in physical activity and safeguarding generally for all those participating in organised sport." The full meta analysis article can be found here: https://www.fsem.ac.uk/position_statement/the-role-of-physical-activity-and-sport-in-mental-health/

I can tell you what would happen if my senior year season was canceled. I'd feel depressed, sluggish, and unmotivated. And so would tens of thousands of other students.

Senators, I ask you, what do you think will happen if a school is forced to remove it's student sports in order to retain it's sovereignty? It's students will suffer. Is that what you want? This bill will not result in a better education system. And if a school does choose to help it's students, they will be forced to give up fundamental freedoms. Private institutions are not privy to the rules of a public school. They can choose who to admit. They can keep with a vision. They can preach a religious message. All of these will be nullified if private schools are forced to comply with state regulations. It is a dismantling of the First Amendment, a cheap attempt to force schools to conform to the whims of politicians. And it cannot pass.