

Controversy erupts as IHSA defies Trump's ban, allowing transgender athletes to compete

The IHSA said in a letter to Republican lawmakers in Illinois last week that it was in an “untenable position” regarding whether to allow transgender athletes to compete in IHSA sporting events.

The decision comes after the Trump administration signed an executive order back in February, which banned the participation of transgender athletes in girls and women’s sports.

In a letter sent to lawmakers last week, IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson, along with Board President Dan Tully, stated that after speaking with Attorney General Kwame Raoul and the Illinois Department of Human Rights, abiding by the Trump administration’s executive order could place the IHSA out of compliance with the Department of Human Rights — and vice versa.

Illinois Sen. Jil Tracy, R-50th District, said she is shocked by the association’s decision.

“I value sports in a child’s life, I think it’s an excellent opportunity for leadership and team skills, and also scholarship opportunities for students. My daughter is a very tough girl having three brothers, but I would not want her to have to face a transgender male in sports,” Tracy said.

The ruling has caused uproar among many Republican lawmakers in

the state, including Congresswoman Mary Miller.

The 15th District representative of Illinois in the U.S. House is calling for an investigation into the IHSA by U.S. Secretary of State Pam Bondi, stating, "The Illinois High School Association has crossed a dangerous line. By blatantly violating federal law and rejecting biological reality, they are not only undermining fairness in girls' sports, they're putting the safety of younger women at risk."

Tracy also said they are requesting federal guidance to protect fairness in women's sports, specifically from Bondi.

"I think very much when she gets this correspondence, she's going to want to weigh in. I think she's weighing in very much across the country on this issue — it's a hot topic because it's happening now," Tracy said.

Currently in the IHSA system, there are only three people born male who asked for and received waivers to compete in women's sports last year out of nearly 320,000 athletes competing in IHSA sports.

Illinois joined the states of Maine, California and Minnesota in going against the administration's federal order. Maine was sued for defying the order.