Attachment A

A Statement on Props 134 & 135 from the Advocacy Director
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Propositions 134 and 135 would allow the government to make decisions that belong to families, while creating blanket regulations for situations that are deeply complex and private.

Proposition 134

Proposition 134 would require transgender students to participate on sports teams aligned with their sex assigned at birth, rather than the gender in which they live their everyday lives. This ban would apply to all sports, from recess to competitive athletics, from kindergarten to college.

Colorado's athletic associations already have guidelines in place to ensure fairness and safety where trans students are concerned, and these processes already include input from parents, coaches, teams, and schools.

Prop 134 offers a definition of "biological sex" that relies on reproductive organs, which raises questions about how biological sex will be verified, as birth certificates will not be accepted. Proposition 134 also does not provide funding for schools to implement its requirements, meaning schools would have to earmark money in their limited budgets for costly DNA tests or other verification procedures. Most of all, Proposition 134 puts all girls in danger of undue scrutiny if they appear too masculine, too good at sports, or too strong.

Proposition 135

Proposition 135, meanwhile, bans surgeries for minors that alter "biological sex characteristics." This measure is a solution in search of a problem. A minor's transition usually involves social transition (going by a new name and pronouns), and occasionally involves hormone treatment, such as puberty blockers. Gender-affirming surgery for minors is incredibly rare.

Even in those rare cases, decisions about gender-affirming surgeries are not taken lightly, occurring only after years of consultation with doctors, therapists, psychiatrists, and especially parents; and only for minors over the age of 16. The barriers to receiving any gender-affirming care are already immense, and surgeries are extremely regulated. Moreover, the most common type of gender-affirming surgery is chest reduction for boys who are not transgender, making this proposition dangerous for cisgender youth as well.

Proposition 135 would only succeed in confusing doctors and families, and creating one-size-fits-all rules for complicated, private medical decisions.

In summary, both measures infringe on the rights of parents, insert government into private family decisions that are already regulated, and put all youth, especially girls, at risk of harm in their schools and healthcare settings. Inside Out Youth Services recommends voting "NO" on both measures.