

# Hyde-Smith, Gosar introduce legislation to block state gun registries

Lawmakers Offer 'GRIP Act' in Continued Effort to Protect Gun Owners' Privacy Rights

**Press Release**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.) and U.S. Representative Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S. (R-Ariz.) introduced the Gun-owner Registration Information Protection Act (GRIP Act) to prohibit states, localities, or any other organization from using federal funding to maintain gun registries.

The GRIP Act would clarify existing law that prohibits the use of any federal funding by states or local entities to store or list sensitive, personal information related to the legal ownership or possession of firearms. The legislation is in response to states that in recent years enacted statutes requiring gun owners to register their handguns.

"The fight to protect Second Amendment rights is unending," said Hyde-Smith, a lifetime NRA member. "The GRIP Act would protect the rights and personal information of law-abiding citizens who own or purchase firearms legally. It would require adherence to the law that specifically says federal monies cannot be used to track or hassle gun owners."

"Another year, another swipe at the American people's second amendment right. Last week, Speaker Pelosi plans on ramming through Congress two overreaching gun control bills. Egregiously, these bills would create a firearm registry database that could be made available to the public creating the likelihood for discrimination against gun owners. In contrast, this

week I was proud to work with Senator Hyde-Smith to introduce the Gun-owner Registration Information Protection (GRIP) Act. Supported by the National Rifle Association, the GRIP Act prohibits the use of federal funding of firearm registry databases that list gunowners who lawfully own or possess firearms," said Gosar.

Current law prevents the federal government from storing information acquired during the firearms background process. The GRIP Act would ensure the federal government does not support, either intentionally or otherwise, state or local efforts to collect and store personally identifiable information related to legal firearm purchases and ownership.

This legislation further clarifies that states and local entities cannot use federal grant funds from programs, such as the National Criminal Histories Improvement Program, NICS Amendment Records Improvement Program, or the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program, to create or maintain full or partial gun registries.

The measure does not include any limitations related to state recordkeeping for permitting, law enforcement-issued firearms, or lost or stolen firearms.

The National Rifle Association (NRA) has endorsed the bill.

"On behalf of our more than 5 million members, the National Rifle Association thanks Senator Hyde-Smith and Congressman Gosar for introducing this important

piece of legislation to prevent the use of federal funds to create a national gun owner registry. Biden-Pelosi-Schumer and their gun control cohorts have longed for the disarming of America, and a national gun registry is a dangerous step towards reaching that goal," said Jason Ouimet, executive director, NRA Institute for Legislative Action.

Original cosponsors of the Senate measure include Senators Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), Mike Braun (R-Ind.), Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), Bill Hagerty (R-Tenn.), Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.), Roger Marshall (R-Kan.), Mike Rounds (R-S.D.), John Thune (R-S.D.), and Roger Wicker (R-Miss.).

Original cosponsors of the House measure include Representatives Brian Babin (R-Texas), Andy Biggs (R-Ariz.), Mo Brooks (R-Ala.), Ken Buck (R-Colo.), Ted Budd (R-N.C.), Jerry Carl (R-Ala.), Madison Cawthorn (R-N.C.), Rick Crawford (R-Ark.), Scott DesJarlais (R-Tenn.), Jeff Duncan (R-S.C.), Michelle Fischbach (R-Minn.), Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.), Bob Gibbs (R-Ohio), Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.), Louie Gohmert (R-Texas), Glenn Grothman (R-Wisc.), Michael Guest (R-Miss.), Jim Hagedorn (R-Minn.), Jody Hice (R-Ga.)

# Mississippi gov signs bill limiting transgender athletes

News Release

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Mississippi Republican Gov. Tate Reeves signed a bill Thursday to ban transgender athletes from competing on girls or women's sports teams.

Mississippi is the first state this year to enact such a ban, after a federal court blocked an Idaho law last year. Mississippi's Senate Bill 2536 is set to become law July 1, although a legal challenge is possible.

More than 20 states are proposing restrictions on athletics or gender-confirming

Yvette Herrell (R-N.M.), Ronny Jackson (R-Texas), Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), Fred Keller (R-Pa.), Mike Kelly (R-Pa.), Doug LaMalfa (R-Calif.), Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.), Tracy Mann (R-Kan.), Tom McClintock (R-Calif.), Carol Miller (R-W. Va.), Alex Mooney (R-W. Va.), Ralph Norman (R-S.C.), Gary Palmer (R-Ala.), Scott Perry (R-Pa.), Tom Reed (R-N.Y.), Matt Rosendale (R-Mont.), David Schweikert (R-Ariz.), Greg Steube (R-Fla.), Chris Stewart (R-Utah), Claudia Tenney (R-N.Y.), Ann Wagner (R-Mo.), and Randy Weber (R-Texas).

health care for transgender minors this year. Conservative lawmakers are responding to an executive order by Democratic President Joe Biden that bans discrimination based on gender identity in school sports and elsewhere. Biden signed it Jan. 20, the day he took office.

Wyatt Ronan, a spokesman for the LGBTQ civil rights group Human Rights Campaign, said the Mississippi bill would be the first transgender sports ban signed into law this year. Idaho enacted a similar law in 2020 that has been blocked by a federal court.

Reeves has three daughters who play sports and he said March 4 on Twitter that Mississippi's bill would "protect young girls from being forced to compete with biological males for athletic opportunities."

"It's crazy we have to address it, but the Biden E.O. forced the issue," Reeves tweeted that day. "Adults? That's on them. But the push for kids to adopt transgenderism is just wrong."

Chase Strangio, a transgender-rights attorney with the national ACLU, said the Mississippi bill "is very vague and seemingly unen-

forceable." "Unfortunately, there is already rampant discrimination against trans youth in Mississippi, which means people are already driven out of sport," said Strangio. "Gov. Reeves's statement makes clear that this isn't about sports at all, this is about attacking trans youth and stopping kids from being trans — a dangerous project with deadly consequences."

The Mississippi Senate passed the bill Feb. 11, and the House passed it March 3. The votes were largely along party lines, with most Republicans supporting the bill and most Democrats either opposing it or refraining from voting.

Republican legislators who pushed the bill gave no evidence of any transgender athletes competing in Mississippi schools or universities.

Supporters of bills such as the one in Mississippi argue that transgender girls, because they were born male, are naturally stronger, faster and bigger than those born female. Opponents say such proposals violate not only Title IX of federal education law prohibiting sex discrimination, but also rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court and 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

## ACROSS

- 1) Not for
- 5) Construction girder
- 10) Did laps
- 14) Kansas field
- 15) Prefix with "graphy"
- 16) Country singer McCann
- 17) Bamboozled
- 19) All aflutter
- 20) Twists together
- 21) Hull areas
- 23) Tiny amounts of work
- 24) Flynn of old Hollywood
- 25) Wash, rinse and spin
- 28) They make assertions
- 31) Counts, nowadays
- 32) Muslim magistrates (var.)
- 33) \_\_\_ de Janeiro
- 34) "Famous" cookie maker
- 35) "American Idol" contestant Clay
- 36) Health store offering
- 37) Do some stitching
- 38) Take in, as trousers
- 39) Bridge guarder of folklore
- 40) Dignifies
- 42) Disgraces
- 43) Corresponds logically
- 44) "Maalox moment" cause
- 45) Veep before Biden
- 47) "H.M.S. Pinafore," for one
- 51) "Black \_\_\_ Down"
- 52) Graduation garb
- 54) Away from the salty spray
- 55) Danger signal
- 56) Opposed to, in "Li'l Abner"
- 57) Let the cat out of the bag
- 58) Colors slightly
- 59) Book unit

## DOWN

- 1) Need liniment
- 2) Time for lunch, often
- 3) Palomino's pace
- 4) Exists as an activating force
- 5) Sweet frostings
- 6) Afflictions
- 7) Bullwinkle's cousins
- 8) Beverage more bitter than beer
- 9) Bit of skull contents
- 10) A way to ski
- 11) Latitude
- 12) Burn-soothing plant
- 13) Things in waiting rooms, briefly
- 18) Does some electrical work
- 22) Pupil surrounder
- 24) Oldest
- 25) "Cut it out!"
- 26) Chinese official's residence
- 27) Most prized asset
- 28) Dessert menu items
- 29) Lock, stock and barrel?
- 30) Many may be saved
- 32) Windy-day toys
- 35) Homeless feline
- 36) Commerce imbalance
- 38) French clergyman
- 39) Base near home
- 41) Made a piggish remark?
- 42) Flower shop emanations
- 44) Detached
- 45) Have a conversation
- 46) Angel's topper
- 47) Word on a store sign
- 48) Loose garment
- 49) Branch offshoot
- 50) "Green Gables" girl
- 53) "Open sesame" speaker

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

The City of Lexington, Mississippi, is considering applying to the Mississippi Development Authority for a Community Development Block Grant of up to \$450,000.00. The State of Mississippi has been allocated approximately \$25 million that will be made available to cities and counties on a competitive basis to undertake eligible community development activities. These funds must be used for one of the following purposes:

- 1. To benefit low- and moderate-income persons and households;
- 2. To aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight; or
- 3. To meet other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs.

The activities for which these funds may be used are in the areas of economic development and public facilities. The City of Lexington's proposed project consists of sewer system improvements. The public hearing will be held April 5, 2021, at 5:00 p. m. at the Lexington City Hall and will provide more specific details regarding the activities, program requirements, and the rating system. The purpose of this hearing will be to obtain citizen input into the development of the application.

## HEAD WARMERS

By Linda K. Palmer

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