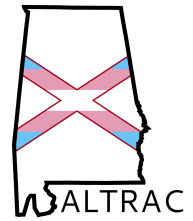


# PRESS RELEASE

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MONTGOMERY, Alabama (Feb 16) – State Representative Susan DuBose has reintroduced her “What is a Woman” Act, after it failed to pass in the House last year. The bill would create the formal legal statuses of “male” and “female” based on reproductive characteristics observed at birth, and retroactively apply those terms to all existing Alabama law, ignoring [decades of medical research and best practices](#).

Similar to legislation [passed in three other states](#) and introduced in at least eight more, this bill is based on model legislation drafted by the Independent Women’s Forum (IWF), which dubbed it the “Women’s Bill of Rights.” The IWF is a right-leaning policy research organization based in Washington, DC, founded to promote a “conservative alternative to feminist tenets.”

“Representative DuBose’s ‘What is a Woman’ Act would be disastrous to all citizens of Alabama if passed,” said Hunter Fuller, an organizer with the Alabama Transgender Rights Action Coalition (ALTRAC). “It would legally force transgender men, many of whom have taken testosterone for years and have full beards, to use the women’s restroom in public.” [Men in the transgender community](#) are already being made the [targets of violence and of accusations of predatory intent](#) as a result of similar legislation in other states.

“This bill is vague enough to justify harassment of non-transgender women who may not look ‘feminine enough’, like those with PCOS and other hormonal issues,” says Rebecca Sylvester, another ALTRAC member. PCOS, or polycystic ovarian syndrome, is a hormonal condition which can cause women’s bodies to develop typically masculine features like facial hair.

The bill also introduces sweeping modifications throughout Alabama Code, including changing the meaning of local laws surrounding barber licensing and seemingly exempting transgender women from several obscenity laws. Citizens from across the state raised concerns about similar issues to the bill’s sponsor in a public hearing last year, but these concerns remain unaddressed in this year’s version.

Representative DuBose’s only other bill introduced this session would weaken child labor law protections for 14- and 15-year old children. “It is clear that [Representative DuBose] prefers to cater to special interests, rather than putting in the work to improve the lives of real Alabamians,” Fuller concluded.

The “What is a Woman” Act has been introduced as HB111 in the State House, and is scheduled for a committee hearing on February 21st. It has been concurrently introduced as SB92 in the State Senate.

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ABOUT ALTRAC: The Alabama Transgender Rights Action Coalition provides information and contact tools to Alabama citizens concerned about legislative attacks on queer and transgender people. <https://altrac.works>