

EXCERPT: HOW A MOMS FOR LIBERTY ALLY IS PUSHING A TRANSGENDER BAN IN NYC SCHOOLS (Copy commissioned by Trans Formative Schools and Aunties and Friends for Liberty)

Maud Maron didn't show up to the April 2024 meeting of Manhattan's District 2 Community Education Council (CEC2) empty-handed. Clutching a printed resolution—"Protecting Girls' Sports and Spaces"—the council member and former School Board candidate leaned into the mic and declared, "This is about parental rights and common sense."

The language was polished, but the intent was clear: a de facto ban on transgender students using facilities or playing sports aligned with their gender identity in NYC public schools.

What Maron didn't mention was where the resolution really came from.

The text mirrors model legislation circulated by Moms for Liberty, the far-right group labeled an "extremist organization" by the Southern Poverty Law Center. Maron, a longtime advocate for "gifted and talented" programs, has quietly built alliances with the group, appearing at their events and retacking their anti-LGBTQ+ messaging.

Her sudden focus on trans students raises questions: Why now? And who's behind it?

The Money Trail

Maron, a corporate lawyer with deep ties to New York's conservative donor circles, has received campaign funding from:

- Defending Ed, a PAC linked to Moms for Liberty and the Manhattan Institute.
- Wealthy Wall Street donors who also bankroll anti-DEI initiatives.

"This isn't organic parent concern. It's a national astroturf campaign," said Zakiyah Ansari, Advocacy Director for the Alliance for Quality Education. "They're using local councils as testing grounds for policies they can't pass in Albany."

A Blueprint for Backlash

Maron's resolution follows a well-worn playbook:

1. Inflame fears about "privacy" and "safety" (despite no evidence of issues in NYC schools).
2. Exploit low-turnout elections (CEC races often decided by <100 votes).
3. Legitimize far-right rhetoric under the guise of "just starting a conversation."

The vote remains pending a year later, but the damage is already done. Trans students in District 2 now feel under siege.

“They’re using our lives as a political stunt,” said Leo, a transgender high school junior in Maron’s district. “Do they even know we exist?”