## WOMEN for AMERICA

January 24, 2023 House Human Service Committee Testimony in Support of HB 1489

Chairman Robin Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Linda Thorson, State Director for Concerned Women for America (CWA) of North Dakota. We are the largest public policy women's organization in our state and in the country, with over fivehundred thousand members in the United States. Today, I am testifying for Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee in support of HB 1489.

Fair competition and equality in women's sports for all *North Dakota* female athletes competing *at institutions of higher education* is protected with the passage of this pro-woman legislation which prohibits male-born athletes from entering women's sports as transwomen. Female athletics are a pathway to development, opportunity, and success for girls and women in America. So, when male-born athletes are permitted in women's sports as transwomen, female-born athletes lose hard-fought opportunities, which came through the feminist movement in the implementation of Title IX.

Concerned Women for America (CWA) of North Dakota urges you to protect biological females who train and work hard to excel in their chosen sport, strive for college scholarships, and *compete at the collegiate level when their athletic skills are at their zenith*. Females should not suffer the loss of opportunity because a biological male who claims transgender status as a woman receives her spot.

- Preserve women's sports for collegiate athletes in North Dakota.
- Ensure fairness in women's sports in North Dakota.
- Support biological facts and basic civil rights for women in North Dakota.

Male athletes should not be competing in *women's* sports, regardless of how they identify. I invite you to read Concerned Women for America's position paper, <u>How Gender Identity</u> <u>Policies Hurt the Progress of Women and Girls</u>, and <u>the letter from a female athlete</u> describing her experiences as a woman seeking to compete on a level playing field at the collegiate level.

Concerned Women for America of North Dakota strongly supports the protection of all women's sports at our high schools and at our institutions of higher education and urges a "Do Pass" on HB 1489.