

My name is Cambry Ankebauer and I am a junior in high school at Bowbells, North Dakota. I participate in Speech. I wrote a persuasive speech explaining why biological males should not be allowed to participate in women's sports. I have researched this topic and would like to share my findings with you.

Men are physically more athletic than women. Dr. Gregory Brown, a professor of exercise science at the University of Nebraska prepared a report highlighting the physical differences between men and women. His report points out the various physical aspects of males as compared to females, "...from greater height and weight and larger, longer, and stronger bones to larger muscles and higher rates of metabolizing and releasing energy. These innate physiological traits result in greater muscle strength; stronger throwing, hitting, and kicking; higher jumping; and faster running speeds for males, all of which create an athletic edge over female athletes." Men also have higher lung capacity than women.

Have you ever wondered why we have separate sports for males and females? It's because it wouldn't be fair to the females if we made them compete against males. We have men's sports for men, and women's sports for women. According to the NDHSAA, the state qualifying time for the men's 400 meter dash is 52.24 seconds and the women's is 61.74 seconds. The class A state qualifying javelin throw for men is 160 feet; 50 feet more than the women's class A state qualifying javelin throw which is 110 feet. We have these numbers for a reason. We have separate sports for a reason. Mashae Miller, who is on my school's cross country team, placed 4th in state this year. Had she been competing against males, she would have placed 114th. Men are physically more athletic than girls. It is unfair to let males compete against women regardless of what gender they think they are.

It is also unsafe for the women involved when a biological male competes. A male Mixed Martial Arts fighter competed against a woman and broke her eye socket, giving her a concussion. A male played with women in volleyball and spiked the ball so hard that it gave a girl on the opposing team a severe concussion. It took weeks for her to recover. A male athlete who participated in rugby has been celebrated for injuring female opponents. When males compete against females, not only is it unfair for the girls, but it is unsafe for them as well.

Every time a male is put onto a women's team, a woman is denied that position. Every time a male makes the podium for excelling on a female team, heads are turned away from a girl, who would have taken that place if athletic rules had not allowed males to unfairly compete in the first place. Every time a girl goes up to compete, and there is a biological male there competing, the odds are stacked against her. It is outrageous that this has even been allowed to happen. Trying to cater to a relatively few gender-confused biological males by allowing them to compete on girls sports teams is a "smack in the face" to the many female athletes who want to compete fairly without undue safety concerns. We want to compete fairly; please protect that right.

Cambry Ankenbauer  
District 2  
House Bill 1249