WOMEN for AMERICA

March 27, 2023 Senate Education Committee Testimony in Support of HB 1249

Chairman Diane Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am Linda Thorson, State Director for Concerned Women for America (CWA) of North Dakota. Today, I am testifying for Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee in support of HB 1249.

Fair competition and equality in girls' sports for all school-aged female athletes are protected with the passage of pro-woman legislation, which prohibits male-born athletes from entering girls' 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 girls who train and work hard to excel in their chosen sport. Girls 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 female 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 girls' sports, regardless of how they identify. I invite you to read Concerned Women for America's position paper, <u>How Gender Identity Policies</u> <u>Hurt the Progress of Women and Girls</u>.

While HB 1249 deals with non-collegiate female athletes, Concerned Women for America of North Dakota strongly supports the protection of all women's sports, including female athletes at our institutions of higher education. We urge a "Do Pass" on HB 1249.