

CONCERNED
WOMEN *for* AMERICA
LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

March 27, 2023
Senate Education Committee
Testimony in Support of HB 1489

Chairwoman Diane Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Linda Thorson. I am a former educator of 26 years and am the State Director of Concerned Women for America (CWA) of North Dakota. I am testifying for Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee. We are the largest public policy women's organization in our state and in the country.

Fair competition and equality in women's sports for all North Dakota female athletes competing at institutions of higher education are 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.

Allowing individuals who are the opposite sex (male) at birth to participate on an athletic team designated for females directly violates [Title IX](#) and is discriminatory against women. Title IX states in part: *"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance..."*

Five years before President Richard Nixon signed Title IX into law, [Kathrine Switzer](#) ran the Boston Marathon. She was allowed to run due to a clerical error that allowed her to register under her initials, K.V. Switzer; as such, race officials did not know she was a woman and let her sign up. During the marathon, she was assaulted by race manager Jock Semple who entered the field of runners and tried to physically pull her out of the race! Kathrine Switzer's boyfriend punched Jock Semple, and she completed the race.

Five years later, on April 17, 1972, the [first Boston Marathon in which females](#) were officially acknowledged was held. Leaders in the women's movement who fought for the opportunities for females to compete in marathons succeeded, and [female marathon runners](#) were, at last, officially acknowledged. Women had to fight – literally – for their right to compete, in contrast with men who enjoyed much more liberal sports opportunities.

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 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.

- Support basic civil rights and victories of the women's movement, which opened doors for women to compete on a level playing field
- Preserve women's sports for collegiate athletes in North Dakota
- Ensure fairness in women's sports in North Dakota

Male athletes should not be competing in women's sports, regardless of how they identify. Forcing female athletes to stand down so men can steal their scholarships and their trophies, invade their locker rooms, and their events have been the ultimate act of discrimination against women. I invite you to read Concerned Women for America's position paper, [How Gender Identity Policies Hurt the Progress of Women and Girls](#), and [the letter from a female athlete](#) 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.