

## **Testimony of Selina Soule in Support of Kansas SB 208**

My name is Selina Soule. I have been competing in track and field since my mom introduced me to it when I was a little girl. Track means everything to me. I would wake up every day and go through high school, just waiting to get to the track, waiting to run, waiting to jump. I spent countless hours training to shave even a few seconds off my time so I could win—so I could be the best. However, my chances of being first – of being the best – were shattered.

In 2017, the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference began allowing boys who identify as girls to compete in girls' sports. As a result, during my 4 years of high school track and field in Connecticut, I was forced to compete against two biological boys identifying as girls. In that time, these two biological male athletes won 15 women's state championship titles in track and field, titles that were previously held by 9 different girls in 2016.

I remember what it was like to line up for a race and get into my blocks, but already knew the outcome long before the start of the race. Those two biological male athletes would dominate the field, and female athletes were left competing for third place and beyond. No matter how hard we trained and how far we pushed ourselves, they beat us time and time again. This isn't about self-expression, this is about our right – a woman's right – to win.

Not only was it frustrating, heartbreaking, and demoralizing to know I could not win, it was even more concerning to see how it was affecting girl's track and field, and if changes are not made soon, we are facing the complete eradication of women's sports.

Boys will always have a physical advantage over us girls, and that is why we have women's sports in the first place. Science and common sense show us that boys are, on average, stronger and faster than girls. That is why it is fundamentally unfair to let boys who identify as girls come in and dominate any sport.

I have lost countless opportunities over the past few years. I lost opportunities to compete on world class tracks. And I lost opportunities to win titles. During my junior year, I was denied the chance to compete at the New England Regional Championship. I missed advancing to the next level of competition in the 55-meter dash by just two spots—two

spots that were taken by biological males. Because they were permitted to participate in a girl's division, I was forced to become a spectator in my own sport.

Even worse, female athletes throughout Connecticut and New England also missed out on chances to compete in front of college coaches and compete for college scholarships. I worry how many college recruiters, who only have a limited number of scholarships and slots on college track teams to award, will skip over the names of other female athletes and only look at the name at the top of those results—a name that belongs to a biological male athlete.

Female athletes deserve the same opportunity as boys to excel and chase our dreams. Allowing male athletes to compete in girls' sports shatters those dreams and strips away opportunities that so many of us have spent years working to obtain.

I encourage you to pass SB 208 because I don't want other girls to have to go through the same pain, frustration, and discouragement that I and many Connecticut and New England girls experienced for the past several years. No one thinks it is fair, but everyone is afraid of retaliation from the media, other kids at school, coaches, and other athletes. I'm just trying to make sure that young girls don't have to face the same pain that I felt throughout my four years of high school.

I urge you to pass SB 208 to guarantee girls in Kansas a level playing field. Women fought long and hard to earn equal athletic opportunities. You have the chance today to protect and save women's sports.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Selina Soule".

Selina Soule

**Testimony of Chelsea Mitchell  
in Support of Kansas SB 208**

My name is Chelsea Mitchell, and I ran track in Connecticut during high school. Unfortunately, I was forced to compete against male students every year of my high school sports experience. I rarely got to compete in fair races in my state.

I lost four state championships because our state policy ignored the biological reality and physical advantages of males over females in sport. Four times I was the fastest female in my race, but I didn't get the gold medal or the state title – the males in my race took that honor. I have watched this happen over and over again in my sport in Connecticut – so many girls have been impacted – missing out on their chance to advance in competition or take home a gold medal. It isn't fair and it isn't right. We need separate sports categories based on biological sex in order to fairly compete.

Please protect the young female athletes in Kansas so they don't have to go through what we in Connecticut have been through. We are watching and counting on you to stand up for women and girls. Please vote for SB 208.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chelsea Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Chelsea Mitchell  
Canton, Connecticut

## Testimony of Alanna Smith in Support of Kansas SB 208

My name is Alanna Smith and I am a junior at Danbury High School in Connecticut. Since my freshman year, I have been a major contributor in the overall success of our girls' outdoor track team. Excelling on the track, setting personal records gives me a sense of personal achievement and confidence that carries over into all parts of my life. I love training, I love competing. The thrill of competing against girls like myself who train hard, work hard is rewarding. I compete to be the best, to be the fastest, to be a champion ... on a level playing field.

My physical success on the track, however, has been limited by the introduction of males into the girls' category. I go to the blocks and know that I am the fastest girl on the line. However, I also know that it will never be enough because there is a biological male on the starting line with me. It has taken me years to develop the personal confidence and sense of belonging I now feel on my track and field team. But the addition of males to girls' sports fills me with a sense of defeat before I even get set up in the blocks.

Biological females deserve the opportunity to be confident, to be competing against girls who are biologically the same as us, to have fairness of play, and to know we have a chance to win in our own sport.

Males will always have a physical advantage over females. Isn't that why we have women's sports in the first place? No matter how much testosterone levels are suppressed, boys remain stronger with more efficient physical bodies to excel in sports. That biological unfairness doesn't go away because of what someone believes about gender identity. Common sense tells me that biology and NOT identity is what matters in athletics.

**Please save women's sports for all biological female athletes like myself in your state. Please restore a level playing field for women athletes, and restore the fairness of play we train so hard for and truthfully deserve! PLEASE pass SB 208.**

Thank You,



Alanna Smith  
Danbury, CT