

Senate Education Committee

Proponent Testimony – Fairness in Women’s Sports

Senator Renee Erickson

March 7, 2022

Senate Bill 484 is a simple bill. Its purpose is to ensure that only biological females compete in girls’ sports.

Allowing biological males to compete against females is unfair. There are indisputable, scientifically proven hormonal, chromosomal and physiological advantages that males have over females which create an unequal playing field. Courts have recognized that there are inherent physiological differences that result in different athletic capabilities. Studies, such as the one in the Journal of Sports Science and Medicine, suggest that “women’s performances at the high level will never match those of men.”

I looked at the Kansas State High School Athletic Association records and could not find one instance in which a female’s individual time or performance was better than a boy in the same event. There are different qualifying standards and equipment requirements for men and women’s sports at the high school, collegiate and professional levels.

This is a bill about fairness. We don’t allow high school aged students to compete at the middle school level. KSHSAA has different classifications of competition based on school size. The purpose of Title IX was to provide fair and equitable opportunities for women. This bill is one more safeguard to ensure fair competition.

This isn’t a solution in search of a problem. How many girls should lose their opportunity before the opponents deem it a problem? We should be proactive, not reactive, just like we are in so many other areas we see occurring in other states.

I can’t say it any better than some University of Pennsylvania teammates of transgender swimmer Lia Thomas:

“Lia has every right to live her life authentically... However, we also recognize that when it comes to sports competition, that the biology of sex is a separate issue from someone’s gender identify. Biologically, Lia holds an unfair advantage over competition in the women’s category, as evidenced by her rankings that have bounced from #462 as a male to #1 as a female. If she were to be eligible to compete against us, she could now break Penn, Ivy, and NCAA Women’s Swimming records; feats she could never have done as a male athlete.”