

Kansas Senate Education Committee

Hearing on SB 208: Fairness in Women's Sports Act

Proponent Written Testimony – Kansas Catholic Conference, Jeanette Pryor,
Policy Specialist

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Madam Chair Baumgardner and Members of the Committee,

Thank you so much for holding a hearing on SB 208, the Fairness in Women's Sports Act.

It is impossible to accurately enumerate the historical benefits that have accrued to girls and women since the adoption of Title IX in 1972. The exponential increase of girls and women participating in athletics corresponds linearly to social, academic, and professional advances especially critical for those struggling in vulnerable communities. Access to higher education through sports-based scholarships, acquisition of leadership skills and lifelong healthy lifestyle habits are all directly linked to female participation in sports in formative years.

The very nature of competitive athletics, intended to measure and reward excellence, presupposes an authentic comparison of skill, strength and endurance devoid of any innate, insurmountable physical advantage for one of the athletes.

The destruction of female sports would reverse decades of hard-won civil rights progress. Most importantly, erasing athletics that flow from and manifest uniquely female characteristics destroys the complete human experience of sport and all it represents as a gift to society from Our Creator.

We respectfully and urgently ask that the Committee pass the Fairness in Women's Sports Act.