

Testimony from Brigitta Mullican  
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### **Support Senate Bill 588, Fairness in Girls' Sports Act**

I strongly support SB 588, the Fairness in Girls' Sports Act, and request a favorable report on this important legislation to protect girls' sports. When I participated in sports in high school, I would not have wanted boys to compete with me. I participated in a coed volleyball team when I was an adult. The men on the team would smack the ball so hard that sometimes we got hurt.

SB 588 would require high school sports designated for girls to be for people who are born as girls. Anyone who is born a boy should not play on a girls' team or compete as a girl. We need to start putting our girls first and prioritize their safety, social needs, and potential opportunities, including recruitment, scholarships, titles, and awards. Please make playing sports great for everyone: a fair playing field.

Please consider these facts:

1. 1 in 3 teen girls report having contemplated suicide compared to 1 in 5 identifying LGBTQIA+ teens.
2. Every time an athlete born male gets a roster spot on a women's team there is an athlete born female who is denied an opportunity to compete.
3. Data is scarce, but we know at least 700 females have been displaced by males competing in women's sporting events.
4. Girls who participate in sports are less likely to get breast cancer, suffer depression, remain in a violent relationship, do drugs, get pregnant, and are more likely to graduate than girls who do not play sports.
5. Estrogen cannot eliminate the male athletic advantage of those born male who have larger hearts and lungs, different skeletal structures, more hemoglobin, and more muscle mass on average than females.
6. Testosterone and Estrogen, two of the main hormones offered to transgender individuals to supplement their transition, are recognized as performance-enhancing drugs.
7. According to the NCAA, the transgender policy at the college level is decided by the national governing body of each sport at the professional level. In almost all instances, the national governing bodies require biological men to play in men's sports and biological women to play in women's sports. Since a biological male would not be allowed to play on a collegiate women's team, they would be ineligible for scholarships and therefore skew the data used to award athletic scholarships. Our girls may be losing scholarships that could be the difference between them attending college or not attending college at all
8. Categories exist in sporting competitions for sex, weight class, and age. Athletes are not allowed to identify into an age category based on feeling older or younger and we should require the same for biological sex.
9. A recent Gonzales Research poll shows an overwhelming support for fairness in girls' sports with 76% of Maryland voters opposed to allowing biological males to compete on girls' JV and Varsity teams, with 67% strongly opposed. This support transcends party

lines, with 96% of Republicans, 81% of independents, and 65% of Democrats in agreement. Notably, 83% of African Americans also support protecting fairness in girls' sports.

10. 24 states have successfully passed similar laws to ensure fairness in K-12 and collegiate sports, including states that are Democratic-leaning like New Hampshire

This legislation is not about exclusion. Anyone can still try out and participate in the boys' team which will remain in the open category. This is about allowing for fair and meaningful competition on the field of play for girls' sports.

I urge you to support SB 588. Thank you for your kind attention and consideration.