

Sally Whitten
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LD 233

Dear Senator Carney and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I'm submitting my testimony in support LD233, an act to prohibit biological males from participating in female sports.

Both my daughter, myself, and my nieces have always been incredibly active in team sports. Although my daughter and I never played sports at the collegiate level, my niece attended UMO on a full sports scholarship. We are all very proud of her accomplishments!

At no time during mine, my daughter's, or my niece's athletic adventures where we faced with having to accept a trans-female on our teams. I'm frankly appalled by this new phenomenon of being able to declare a new gender identity and use that personal identity, personal choice to insert yourself into a female safe space. I cannot imagine how the biological females are expected to just accept a trans-female into their locker rooms and (clothes) changing areas. How did we get here?

Biological males have a physical advantage over females, that is simple biology. How can our women face a fair and competitive playing environment when they are actually being asked to compete against a biological males? Frankly, it is not fair! I understand the idea of inclusion, but why is this allowed when it clearly negatively impacts biological females. Women, girls, biological females have earned and deserve our respect and that may includes laws to protect them! I've heard the argument that there are only a few trans-females, so the impact is small. The impact is not small when you truly and honestly talk to those few females brave enough to speak up!

I don't know the members of this committee personally, but I'm going to venture a guess that most of the men on the committee would easily beat the females in a competition. Name a sport and try to play against the very colleagues you are sitting with today. Would it feel fair to lose?

I'd also honestly like for you, as adult leaders in the state, to consider a new rule for yourselves where you dress each day, for your statehouse work, in a shared bathroom/changing room. Would you be comfortable walking into that shared changing space each day knowing you could face the nudity of a teammate? They say the mark of a true leaders is to never ask your team to do anything you wouldn't do yourself. I'm going to ask you as leaders to look around at your committee team and honestly ask yourself if you could beat any of the males in a sport, but just as importantly, are you absolutely comfortable using shared changing spaces. I can say without hesitation, my male co-workers are stronger and more athletically capable than I am and I do not wish, as an adult, to share my locker room with them. If I'm uncomfortable why would I force that situation on minors as "normal".

Please put politics aside, do the right thing for our young women and vote to pass LD233 and get biological males out of female sports!