

Roberta Manter  
Fayette  
LD 233

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, Members of the Judiciary Committee,  
My name is Roberta Manter and I live in Fayette. I am testifying in favor of LD 233.

This is not just a question of discrimination, it is a matter of safety. Yes, everyone should have a right to compete, and that should include the right to compete on a level playing field. If transgender athletes believe it is unfair for them to have to compete against males, then they should understand that it is equally unfair for biological females to have to compete against biological males. The genes with which a biological male are born lead to heavier bone growth, stronger muscles, and a more aggressive temperament. These characteristics are detectable even before birth. Yes there are variations, but those genetic tendencies remain.

Our church did a week long summer camp for years. One of the activities it offered was volleyball. Unfortunately, our pastor insisted on joining the games. Now you have to understand that this was a man who was famous for insisting on men treating women with ultimate respect, to the point of standing when a women entered the room, taking a lady's coat, pulling out her chair for her, etc. He was the ultimate gentleman. But once he was in a game he would get carried away. I had the misfortune to be stationed next to him in a staff vs campers game, and after having him collide with me hard once, I had to stop trying to get the ball even when it was in my area. He was just too big and too aggressive for me to compete with him for the ball. And I was not the only female to suffer a collision with him during a volleyball game. Once he entered competition, his male genes were in control. I don't want my grand daughters to get hurt trying to compete with biological males.

On the other hand, we need to find a safe way to let everyone compete. So why not do what they do in horse racing? Horse owners know that it would be unfair to make females race against males. So there are races for colts of certain ages, races for fillies of certain ages, and races that are open to any horse whose owner thinks they have a chance to beat whoever else enters. Why can't we have the "horse sense" to offer events for biological males, events for biological females, events for transgender individuals, and open events which anyone can enter? That would assure that everyone has a chance to compete on an equal footing.

Thank you for your consideration.