



Delaware Senate Bill 227 - Save Women's Sports Act

Written Testimony from [Women's Liberation Front](#)

Submitted March 24, 2022

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee:

I am the Legal Director of Women's Liberation Front (WoLF), the nation's largest radical feminist, non-partisan, non-profit agency, representing women of every political affiliation. On behalf of WoLF, I urge you to vote in support of Senate Bill 227 (SB 227), which will ensure that women and girls in Delaware have the same opportunity to succeed in student athletics as men and boys.

Sex-separated sports exist because of biological and physiological sex differences that are highly relevant to athletics. We do not separate sports by race or ethnicity, by sexual orientation, by religion, and we should not separate by an athlete's personal feelings about their sex. A female athlete's place on a girl's soccer team is not contingent on expressing femininity, just as a male athlete's place on a boy's soccer team is not contingent on expressing masculinity.

When female athletes are forced to compete in de facto coed teams, they are deprived of titles, records, medals, scholarships, and opportunities to win, or participate, fairly and safely. In just one example, in 2019, two male track runners

blew away female competitors in Connecticut's state track championship and smashed 15 state records previously held by female competitors. Overall, physiological sex differences are so large that the US Women's National Team was beaten in a soccer scrimmage by the FC Dallas under-15 boys' team in 2017.¹ These differences are not reversed with the lowering of testosterone levels or other forms of medical transition, though this is not usually required anyway.

The most recent and glaring example, that of collegiate swimmer Lia Thomas, is making headlines at this very moment, and the Committee should view this situation as a guaranteed consequence if Delaware passes this bill into law. Thomas has provided the wider public with an eye-opening view of the sheer number of female athletes whose success can be displaced by just a single, otherwise mediocre male athlete when he is allowed to compete at an elite level on a female-only team.

Even more concerningly, women are at an increased risk of injury when playing contact sports with men. Fallon Fox, a male MMA fighter, fractured a woman's skull during a competition in which he did not disclose he was a man until shortly before the fight. The woman said it was the most overpowered she had ever felt.

Other states have already passed similar laws - with bipartisan support in their legislatures - protecting women's and girls' sports. National polling suggests that such policies are supported by a majority of voters across the political spectrum,² including Democratic voters. The public knows that having only coed sports wouldn't be fair.

SB 227 would ensure that a student's biological sex is considered to be correctly stated based on the birth certificate filed at or near the time of the student's birth. WoLF applauds the inclusion of this important detail in SB 227.

¹ "FC Dallas under-15 boys squad beat the U.S. Women's National Team in a scrimmage," CBS Sports (2017).

² Poll conducted Oct 2020 by Spry Strategies on behalf of WoLF.

Using birth certificates that were filed at or near the time of students' births will ensure that women and girls will not be forced to compete against males.

Furthermore, the use of these birth certificates will ensure that people will not be psychologically coerced into referring to men as women, or vice versa. Students, coaches, school employees, and parents should be allowed to describe and refer to males as "men" and "boys" and females as "women" and "girls." Using accurate birth certificates will ensure that people will not be forced to participate in faith-based, pseudoscientific claims that humans can transition into the opposite sex.

WoLF asks each member of the Committee to consider how many women and girls must lose medals, titles, and scholarships to male athletes for you to recognize and care about their loss; how many would need to be gravely injured for this to be seen as a serious issue; and whether you would cheer on a "women's" team composed entirely of men who self-identify as women. This is not hypothetical: in Iran, where state-sponsored castration and estrogen are available to men who seek them, eight members of the national *women's* soccer team are men.

Those who oppose this bill must ask themselves exactly how many women and girls they are willing to sacrifice on the altar of inclusion. WoLF believes that number is zero, and urges the Committee to support this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Lauren Adams

Legal Director

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