

Good day, I am John E. Gall of 424 Augusta Dr. Elyria. I would like to submit this written testimony in favor of HB 527, Save Women's Sports Act.

I have five daughters and have officiated basketball, softball, baseball, and football for over 25 years in Ohio, California, New Mexico, and in the United Kingdom while on assignment in the United States Air Force. During this time, I have seen the effects that Title IX has on equalizing the opportunities that girls and young women have when participating in sports. Title XI made possible women's events to have equal billing and status with the men's venues. You could see the increased level of participation and how girl's developed that competitiveness and skill as schools emphasized equality in access and training. No longer were girl's treated differently.

Basketball is the sport I could see the steady improvements. Refereeing boys and girls both during the basketball season, one see the difference in the athletic level and speed of play. Anyone observing will see that the competitiveness is equal, it is the athleticism that is different. As referees I know, the game on the floor is the most important game in the world for all in the gymnasium at that time. When the ball is tossed to start the game, everything is equal. Only through skill, athleticism and maybe a little luck will determine the winner over the loser.

When you change the rules to now allow boys to compete as girls, that equality is gone. The following study was eye opening in that it shows the difference in athleticism and the ability to outperform between boys/men and girls/women. Doriane Lambelet Coleman & Wickliffe Shreve, Comparing Athletic Performances: The Best Elite Women to Boys and Men, DUKE LAW CTR. FOR SPORTS LAW AND POLICY, <https://web.law.duke.edu/sports/sex-sport/comparative-athletic-performance/> (last visited Feb. 10, 2020).

Strength, speed, and endurance were tested. The results all showed that men outperform women in all categories. No one can refute this.

Every time a boy is allowed to compete in a girl's sport, a girl has lost her spot on a roster. No one will ever know how well she could have preformed on the court or field. We all know how the boy will preform, typically exceeding the ability of the best female player. I cannot imagine my child being bumped from a team by a male who says he is a female. I cannot imagine my daughter competing in a varsity event against a male. I cannot imagine myself officiating, repulsed by this happening to a sport that has been an incredibly strong influence in so many women's lives. This is wrong.

For all the female athletes who have been beaten unfairly by a male in what is titled as a female sport, it is this society, the adults who change the rules for feelings, ignoring the biological facts, who have done them wrong. It is now up to this body to fix this and to insure every girl in this state can compete fairly, compete on an equal field of athletes. I ask that you approve this bill and move it to the entire House before the next school year. It is only fair.

Best Regards,
John E. Gall
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