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PROPONENT TESTIMONY

DATE: Wednesday, June 23, 2021

TO: Members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee

FROM: John Stover - President, Ohio Value Voters

RE: Support for H.B. 61: Save Women's Sports Act

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Primary and Secondary Education Committee, I appreciate the members of this committee hearing proponent testimony on House Bill 61, legislation declaring Ohio's interests in Saving Women's Sports from the unfair competition of biological males.

My name is John Stover, President of Ohio Value Voters (OVV). Our organization believes that God created two sexes, male and female. Those that are born biological males have a unique advantage in strength and stamina over biological females. Recently, the science to this fact was reported in the news regarding an Olympian weightlifter. See the story below.

Like A Bad Joke': Female Competitor Reacts to Trans Weightlifter Competing in Olympic Games

"Life-changing opportunities are missed for some athletes — medals and Olympic qualifications — and we are powerless."

June 21, 2021 DailyWire.com

It's looking like female weightlifter Anna Vanbellinghen is going to compete in the upcoming Olympic Games against [Laurel Hubbard](#), a former men's weightlifting competitor who now identifies as a woman — and Vanbellinghen is not too thrilled. The Belgian weightlifter likened the prospects of Hubbard, who is a biological man, competing in the Games to "a bad joke."

"First off, I would like to stress that I fully support the transgender community, and that what I'm about to say doesn't come from a place of rejection of this athlete's identity," Vanbellinghen [said](#) earlier this month. "I am aware that defining a legal frame for transgender participation in sports is very difficult since there is an infinite variety of situations, and that reaching an entirely satisfactory solution, from either side of the debate, is probably impossible."

“However, anyone that has trained weightlifting at a high level knows this to be true in their bones: this particular situation is unfair to the sport and to the athletes,” the athlete emphasized.

Since Hubbard physically developed as a man before transitioning, the trans weightlifter is at an inherent unfair advantage over biologically female competitors, said Vanbellinghen. “So why is it still a question whether two decades, from puberty to the age of 35, with the hormonal system of a man also would give an advantage?”

“I understand that for sports authorities nothing is as simple as following your common sense, and that there are a lot of impracticalities when studying such a rare phenomenon, but for athletes the whole thing feels like a bad joke,” Vanbellinghen continued.

“Life-changing opportunities are missed for some athletes — medals and Olympic qualifications — and we are powerless.”

Hubbard notably took silver in the 2017 world championships, sparking outrage from proponents of women’s sports and fellow athletes. The athlete responded by highlighting so-called “evolving” “science.”

“As an athlete, all I can really do is block that out,” Hubbard told a New Zealand radio station in 2017, referring to criticism. “If I try and take that weight on board, it just makes the lifts harder. All I can really do is just focus and lift.”

In 2014, it was reported that a transgender MMA fighter had broken the skull of a biological female.

When transgender fighter Fallon Fox broke her opponent's skull in MMA fight

Fallon Fox, the first MMA fighter to come out as transgender, once fractured the skull of her opponent in an MMA fight in 2014.

Fox was challenging Tamikka Brents at CCCW (Capital City Cage Wars) event, where the 45-year-old fighter brutally defeated her American opponent. The fight lasted just over two minutes after the referee was forced to halt the contest.

Brents received seven staples to her head, and also suffered a concussion. She was overpowered by Fox to an extent that even the orbital bone inside her skull was fractured.

In the state of Connecticut, it’s been reported that biological males have won and set track records over biological females.

Transgender teens outrun track and field competitors, but critics close behind

Some people say the teens should not be allowed to run against non-trans girls. Some parents within Connecticut's high school track and field circle expressed outraged when two transgender students took home top prizes at the state championships for girls.

Transgender high school sophomores Terry Miller and Andraya Yearwood came in first and second place, respectively, in the 100-meter race at the State Open Finals June 4, angering some parents who complained they had a competitive advantage over non-transgender students.

Miller, who also won the top prize for the 200-meter race representing Bulkeley High School in Hartford, and Yearwood were born male, but they now identify as females.

Athletic conference rules allow high school athletes to compete based on the genders with which they identify. Critics say the rules give male-to-female transgender people a competitive edge over cisgender women -- whose biological sex matches their gender identity -- because some have higher testosterone levels than non-trans females.

"I think it's unfair to the girls who work really hard to do well and qualify for Opens and New Englands [competitions]," sophomore sprinter Selina Soule, who finished sixth in the 100-meter State Open Finals, told the Hartford Courant. "These girls, they're just coming in and beating everyone. I have no problem with them wanting to be a girl."

Many social media users seemed to agree with Soule's sentiment. A video of Miller's crossing the finish line at the championship had attracted more than 120,000 comments and 500 retweets and "likes" on Twitter as of Wednesday afternoon as people went back and forth about whether the teen possessed a biological advantage over other racers.

"These girls worked hard only to be cheated because science deniers allowed two boys to steal what they worked so hard for," one Twitter user commented, while others urged the non-trans girls to boycott their respective teams until the rules are changed.

A number of states have already passed legislation to address this issue of biological males competing in biological women's sports. Common sense must prevail and look to the facts and science.

In concluding, it is respectfully requested that the Primary and Secondary Education committee pass House Bill 61 out of committee and refer it to the House Floor for a vote.

Sincerely,

John Stover, President
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