

Written Testimony in Support of Rhode Island Bill 5842: Fairness in Women's Sports

Dear Members of the Rhode Island General Assembly,

I write to express my support for Bill 5842, the “Fairness in Women’s Sports Act.” This bill seeks to ensure that female athletes in our state have the opportunity to compete on a level playing field—one that honors the intent and protections of Title IX, which was designed to create equal opportunities for women and girls in education and athletics.

Fair competition is a foundational principle in sports. Sex-based categories exist to account for the undeniable physical differences between biological males and females, especially in puberty and adulthood. These differences often affect strength, speed, and endurance—key elements in many competitive sports.

Even California Governor Gavin Newsom, a strong supporter of LGBTQ+ rights, has acknowledged that this is an issue of *fairness*. While advocating for inclusion, he also noted the need for thoughtful, nuanced policies that maintain equity for biological women. This underscores that concerns about fairness in women’s sports are not rooted in bigotry but in a genuine desire to preserve equal opportunity.

This bill is not about exclusion—it is about protecting a space where female athletes can compete safely and fairly. It is possible, and necessary, to advocate for the rights and dignity of all students while still preserving the integrity of women's sports.

I urge you to support Bill 5842 and uphold the spirit of fairness, opportunity, and balance that has guided women’s athletics for generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Christopher Netro
North Kingstown, RI