



March 23, 2020

Via email: governor@gov.idaho.gov
Governor Brad Little
Idaho State Capitol
700 West Jefferson Street
Boise, Idaho 83702

Re: SUPPORT FOR HB 500A – Fairness for Women and Girls in Sports

Dear Governor Little,

On behalf of nearly 700 members who live across the country and abroad, including in Idaho, we urge you to sign HB 500a, to protect fairness in women's and girls' sports.

While women and girls thrive academically, we still live with the reality that females differ biologically from males, in ways that matter to fairness in sports. And while those biological differences accelerate at puberty, they begin to appear much earlier. As early as age 5 boys outcompete girls in track competitions across the globe.¹

Unfortunately, sex discrimination against women and girls in sports occurs for social reasons. Things are getting better, but serious disparities persist in virtually all U.S. high schools, with many fewer team slots open to girls than to boys.² These disparities are significantly worse for Black and Latino girls, and they carry over into college athletics. Sex disparities diminish girls' ability to access higher education through the help of athletic scholarships. Thus, even if girls and boys lose an equal number of sports slots *the loss has a disproportionate effect on girls*. Every single opportunity available to women and girls must therefore be zealously protected.

We are aware that some groups have demanded exceptions for individuals who claim to have a "gender identity." They express their arguments in the language of science and law, but their goal of ending sex-based legal protections is unmistakably political. These groups openly seek to normalize the use of harmful medical interventions on vulnerable children, such as the use of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones that have serious long-term health consequences including in some cases permanent sterility.

We oppose these unreasonable demands in the strongest possible terms. No young boy should be encouraged by irresponsible adults to endanger his health and future fertility in order to qualify for a girls' athletic competition.

¹ See, e.g., Dominique Eisold, International records by age, ages 5 to 19, <https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:P2WmgWKfyNgJ:age-records.125mb.com/&hl=en&gl=us&strip=1&vwsr=0>.

² Nat'l Coalition for Women and Girls in Educ., "Title IX at 40: Working to Ensure Gender Equity in Education" (2012), <https://ncwge.org/PDF/TitleIXat40.pdf>.

See also Nat'l Women's Law Center, "Finishing Last - Girls of Color and School Sports Opportunities" (2015), https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/final_nwlc_girlsfinishinglast_report.pdf.

Please sign HB 500a because fairness in women's and girls' sports is worth protecting!

Sincerely,

/s/Jennifer C. Chavez
Women's Liberation Front
Member, Board of Directors