

SC S. 0531

Written Testimony from <u>Women's Liberation Front</u> Submitted March 14, 2022

SC S. 0531 – Save Women's Sports Act **OPPOSE**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SC Senate Bill 0531. My name is Dr. Mahri Irvine, and I am the Executive Director of Women's Liberation Front (WoLF). WoLF is our nation's largest radical feminist, non-partisan, non-profit agency fighting against gender ideology. WoLF represents women of every political affiliation and belief system. We urge you to oppose S. 0531.

S. 0531 does not protect adult female athletes from being forced to compete against male athletes because it does not include collegiate sports. This bill only provides protection for middle school and high school sports. This is unacceptable: female athletes in college deserve to be protected, too. Furthermore, this bill does not ensure that the sex of athletes will be verified through the use of acurate birth certificates that were filed at or near the time of the athletes' births.

For an example of an excellent bill that will protect fairness in middle school, high school, and college sports, please refer to SC H. 4608. WoLF submitted written testimony in support of H. 4608 last week.

Female-only sports are incredibly important because they ensure that women and girls will continue to have opportunities related not just to winning sporting events, but opportunities to advance their educational opportunities and careers.

On average, female human beings are smaller, weaker, and slower than male human beings. This statement is not meant to diminish the amazing capabilities of the female sex. This statement is merely a fact based on biological reality. In competitive athletics,

women and girls, on average, are at a serious disadvantage when they are forced to compete against men and boys. It is incredibly unfair to force women and girls to compete against males.

When female athletes are forced to compete in de facto mixed-sex teams, they are deprived of titles, records, medals, scholarships, and opportunities to win, or participate, fairly and safely. All across the country, we are now witnessing men and boys taking advantage of unfair situations to win athletic competitions against women and girls. When these boys and men win, they not only win accolades and prizes, but they also take away scholarship opportunities and career advancement opportunities for women and girls.

S. 0531 will fail to 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. Unfortunately, across the country, people are now able to manipulate data and obscure reality by altering their birth certificates. This intentional manipulation of data has begun to cause – and will continue to cause – serious problems related to accuracy in all types of data collection and analysis, including data related to women and girls' sports and the ensuing scholarships and career opportunities that result from winning athletic competitions. It is imperative that schools use birth certificates filed at or near the time of students' births in order to verify the sex of athletes claiming to be female.

I urge South Carolina's leaders to oppose S. 0531 because this bill will not ensure a fair playing field for female athletes who play college sports. This bill will not protect the integrity of women's sports at the college level. All female athletes – regardless of whether they are in middle school, high school, or college – should be protected from male athletes attempting to infiltrate and undermine women's sports.

Thank you for reviewing our testimony. WoLF is available to serve as a resource for you if you have questions or would like more information about the importance of single-sex sports, or any topic related to gender ideology and sex-based inequalities.

Written testimony prepared by:

Mahri Irvine, PhD Executive Director Women's Liberation Front executivedirector@womensliberationfront.org