

# Comment Report

Ways and Means  
Date: 03/18/2021  
Time: 09:30 AM  
Location: Law Library

**Name:** Sarah Eikleberry

**Comment:** I am writing to express my firm opposition to the recently amended HF 808. Amendment H1159, also known as the "Save Women's Sport Act" uses girls and women as a shield to discriminate against LGBTQ+ people. These marginalizing efforts have devastating consequences for young people and are bad for all gender-nonconforming people. Furthermore, using girls and women as a shield is truly shameful. Girls and women do not need protection from trans athletes. These supposed threats to fairness do not bear out in the record. If this body were truly concerned about the welfare of athletes, they would be seeking to legislate reforms that support more inclusive practices, practices that both the Iowa High School Athletic Association and the Iowa High School Girls' Athletic Union broadly support.

**Name:** Anna Malone

**Comment:** The save women's sports act is completely unjust and should not be put in place. Trans women are women!!

**Name:** Philip Goldfarb Styrt

**Comment:** This bill is discriminatory in both intent and effect. Trans women and trans girls are women and girls; testing them and treating them in this way does nothing for the sanctity of sport, and only serves to isolate and harm people already discriminated against in our society. Vote no.

**Name:** Matthew Coomber

**Comment:** Dear Iowa Legislature: As an Episcopal priest, a Christian, and as the father of a junior-high aged child, I vehemently oppose the "Save Women's Sports Act," which unfairly targets trans and nontrans Iowan girls through both ostracization and humiliating and invasive testing. Transwomen have been participating in sports for decades, if not longer, and with no ill effects on our sporting institutions. As far back as the 1970s there have been claims that transwomen in sports would end women's athletics, yet no such end has come. As a Christian I am called to respect the dignity of all God's children and, regardless of one's theological views on LGBTQ\* issues, to put this undue burden on a population that is already more prone to suicide because of feeling ostracized is cruel and demeaning whether or not that is the intent. My son is not trans, but the thought of him being discriminated against like this, if he were, is a painful one indeed. With so many pressing matters facing our state, I am greatly disappointed that Iowa is spending its time on this non-issue that will only serve to cause pain. We, as Iowans, are better than that. I stand with the Iowa High School Athletics Association and the Iowa High School Girls Athletics Union in opposing Amendment 1159. Please, for the sake of our young trans Iowans, I ask you to do the same. Sincerely, The Rev. Dr. Matthew J.M. Coomber

**Name:** Ella Johnson

**Comment:** I oppose amendment 1159 to House File 808. I believe the practice of sex verification that it allows for unfairly targets girls, and most often, BIPOC girls.

**Name:** Carol McCoy

**Comment:** Amendment 1159, attached to House File 808, is offensive even to someone who is a conservative Christian such as myself. Requiring physical verification of sex before an athletic competition is offensive, plain and simple. Although I do not believe that homosexuality is moral or that people should oppose the way God has created them, I am shocked that the Iowa legislature would even entertain such a notion. This amendment unfairly targets certain populations, particularly trans girls, transwomen, and people of color. Please do not vote for this amendment.

**Name:** Kevin Carlson

**Comment:** Amendment 1159 attached to House File 808 is a hateful attack on Iowa girls and the practice of sex verification is an abhorrent violation of our girls and unfairly targets girls of color. Please defeat this transphobic, racist amendment and truly protect our women's sports. If Representative Salmon was capable of shame, she should surely feel it for offering this hateful amendment and embarrassing all of Iowa.

**Name:** Dale Broder

**Comment:** This educational funding bill has language that is antitrans. It specifically targets transwomen in sports, even requiring sports programs to verify the sex of athletes by inspecting their genitalia. This is a gross invasion of privacy and is frankly sickening! This is sexual assault. A large portion of humans (some estimates as high as 2%) are born intersexed, meaning they do not have male or female genitalia. Are these millions of people not allowed to participate in sports? Moreover, the argument that transwomen have an unfair advantage is simply false. I am a biology professor, and one thing we teach in all of our classes is that variation is everywhere. If a 5ft tall man and a 6ft tall man play on the same basketball team, they will have different strengths. Perhaps only one will be able to dunk but the other may be faster or more agile. Would we call this unfair and demand to inspect both players genitalia? No! This is natural variation. This is normal. Further, studies have shown that any differences in strength that transwomen may have disappear within 5 years of hormone therapy. Regardless of the abilities of transathletes, variation is a fact of life. It is normal. Sex verification is not normal it is unethical should be considered sexual assault sexual assault is illegal.

**Name:** Stella Herzig

**Comment:** I oppose the "Save Women's Sport Act" which is bundled into the House File 808. This practice of sex verification unfairly targets girls, and most often, BIPOC girls. I detest the idea of making girls submit to an invasive exam and it is a perfect setting for sexual abuse to happen! You will humiliate a LOT of girls with this invasion of their private parts! Horrible! As a mother of girls, I strongly oppose this 'act'. I would not let my girls be submitted to it, which in effect is setting up a situation in which girls stop playing sports. This is sexist and very very unfair.

**Name:** Brett Billman

**Comment:** As an Iowan, I do not support amendment 1159 that was tacked onto HB808 (the so-called "Save Women's Sport Act"). Currently, there is not sufficient research to support any charges of unfair advantages by transgender adolescents. Further, this amendment, through invasive examinations, and discriminatory rhetoric will do irreparable harm to all children cisgender and transgender. Amendment 1159 is an attempt by conservative extremists to add legal discrimination to the law. Our elected officials are oathbound to serve and protect all Iowans. This amendment runs contrary to that oath. BNB

**Name:** Jacob White

**Comment:** Forcible genital exposure is inhumane and sexually predatorial especially when trying to enforce it upon the gender that is exposed to the most sexual violence and assault.

**Name:** rebecca romatoski

**Comment:** Amendment 1159 tacked onto House File 808 is unacceptable. Both the Iowa High School Athletics Association and the Iowa High School Girls Athletics Union oppose this type of legislation. These athletes aren't professionals or Olympians. As someone who plays ice hockey as a women amongst almost all men in the state of Iowa, I know first hand the advantages those who's sex is male have as they are usually taller, stronger, faster, etc. but I still think this amendment is unwarranted. Because of my experience playing as usually the lone woman, I wondered how would it be fair for a trans person who identified as female but who's body was of the male sex to play on a women's team and how would one know if they were doing that because they were really trans. Fortunately, I asked, without being offensive, an expert. It comes down to their testosterone levels; HOWEVER, there are women with high testosterone levels and men with low testosterone levels outside the normal levels so one still needs to be careful and not use this as a determining factor! Have you considered all aspects of what this bill could do. Maybe on the face of it is seems like no big deal, but it is a big deal to be called out! Please do your research on this before you vote and vote against. See also Scientific American article called Trans Girls Belong on Girls Sports Teams which says "There is no epidemic of transgender girls dominating female sports. Attempts to force transgender girls to play on the boys teams are unconscionable attacks on already marginalized transgender children, and they dont address a real problem. Theyre unscientific, and they would cause serious mental health damage to both cisgender and transgender youth."Anyone who would be targeted by this amendment is already targeted in so many other ways that the barriers they need to overcome just to participate would be deterrent enough for those people who might consider joining the wrong sex of a sports team. So how many people are you worried are immorally "switching" genders? It cannot be many and probably more likely none at all. How many people will be targeted and questioned wrongly and have their lives turned upside down for nothing. Is it worth doing that to so many undeserving people, degrading and disrespecting them, just to find one or two rotten apples?

**Name:** Randall Goblirsch

**Comment:** I'm writing to urge the subcommittee to vote against amendment 1159 that has been added to House File 808. This amendment discriminates against transgender girls and women and is unjust. I stand with both the Iowa High School Athletics Association and the Iowa High School Girls Athletics Union in opposing this type of legislation.