

December 23, 2024



*Via Electronic Mail*

## **OREGON REPUBLICAN LEGISLATORS**

Mr. Peter Weber  
President  
Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA)  
25200 SW Parkway Avenue, Suite 1  
Wilsonville, OR 97070

Subject: Request to Protect the Integrity of Women's Sports in Oregon

Dear Mr. Weber,

We Oregon House Republicans write to express deepening concerns regarding OSAA's policies allowing male athletes to compete in girls' sports. Since our discussion with you in July, these concerns have only intensified, underscored by troubling incidents and growing public outcry.

President-elect Donald Trump's comments at a rally on Sunday highlighted the critical importance of safeguarding women's sports. He called for policies ensuring that biological males are not allowed to compete in female categories. These statements resonate with growing national and state-level efforts to defend competitive integrity and ensure safety in girls' sports.

We strongly urge you to watch the new Independent Women's Forum documentary, "Kill Shot: How Payton McNabb Turned Tragedy Into Triumph," which highlights the severe injury of a female volleyball player caused by a transgender opponent and the broader implications for female athletes. This documentary encapsulates the urgent need for action and can be accessed at:  
<https://www.iwfeatures.com/documentary/payton-mcnabb/>.

Recent events, including Payton McNabb's injury and the Soule v. Connecticut Association of Schools case alleging that men participating in girls sports is a violation of Title IX, underscore the competitive and legal inequities caused by policies allowing transgender participation in sex-separated sports based on gender identity. The Connecticut court recognized the plaintiffs' claims of unfair competition and systemic disadvantage when biological males participated in girls' high school track events. The remand in this case reinforces that policies must align with Title IX's mandate to protect the rights of biological females in athletic programs receiving federal funding.

Your response in April to Oregon Republican women legislators claimed that OSAA's policies were mandated by state law. Yet, your recent statements to us indicate OSAA retains significant discretion in crafting policies and that the registrars' student documentation at member schools determines team participation. This inconsistency undermines confidence in OSAA's commitment to addressing these serious concerns. We have a legal opinion from our Legislative Council stating that OSAA has the authority to establish policies that prioritize fairness without conflicting with state or federal law.

We urge OSAA to adopt a policy that limits participation in female athletic categories to biological females, with an option to create an open category for all others. This approach, similar to recent recommendations by other organizations, would balance inclusivity with competitive fairness. As you may know, the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association is considering a similar policy change. If they do so, California would likely follow.

The national spotlight on this issue, combined with Trump's policy direction and cases like Soule, demonstrates the urgency of adopting clear policies to protect the integrity of girls' sports. OSAA's leadership is essential to restoring trust and ensuring Oregon's compliance with federal and state law while safeguarding opportunities for female athletes.

We are prepared to work with OSAA to develop policies that reflect these principles and address the concerns of Oregon's communities. Please contact us to discuss this critical matter further.

Respectfully,



Dwayne Yunker  
State Representative, District 3



Ed Diehl  
State Representative, District 17