



February 3, 2021

Minnesota State Senate Education Finance and Policy Committee  
95 University Ave W  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Members,

On behalf of thousands of Minnesota families, **we urge you to support SF 96.**

Female athletes have fought long and hard over the course of decades to earn equal athletic opportunities, leading to the creation of Title IX. Allowing male athletes to compete on girls' sports teams completely undermines the spirit of Title IX, which was designed to eliminate discrimination against women in education and athletics and to create a level playing field for female athletes.

Male athletes who desire to play on girls' teams are shattering dreams and stealing opportunities from girls and young women who deserve to win. They are sidelining girl athletes, forcing them to be spectators in their own sports. They are crushing female athletes' dreams of setting sports records, competing at the next level, pursuing athletic scholarship opportunities, and launching their careers in athletics and coaching.

Males have distinct physical advantages over females that are unavoidable and irreversible. In most sports, an average male athlete can decisively defeat even an elite female athlete. This is why we have women's sports in the first place. A male athlete's beliefs about his gender do nothing to cancel out this physical advantage. In Connecticut, one male athlete now holds over 10 records in the state that once belonged to ten different female athletes. These competitions have consequences beyond the sport itself, and influence scholarship opportunities and college careers.

A number of states have already passed legislation clarifying Title IX by protecting athletic opportunity and safety for women and girls all across the country. On behalf of thousands of Minnesotans, including coaches and young athletes, we urge you to pass this important measure.

Sincerely,

Veronica Missling  
Acting Director of Public Policy