

Dear President Trump, and proposers/drafters, and supporters of this proposal,

I would like to point out just a few problems with what you (and the proposals' drafters and supporters) have claimed.

First, as you know, Representatives in support of such measures, like State Representative Steven Holt of Iowa, have stated in writing and on air in interviews that **all** civil rights protections (explicitly stating "race" as one example) should be removed from both state and federal policies. So it is disingenuous to specifically highlight alternative legislation that "protects women" when "sex" (aka being a woman) is a civil rights protection that Holt (and supporters like you all) are against. Moreover, as you know, transgender individuals make up no more than 7000 individuals of a state with over 3.1 million people in the state of Iowa, and this represents a sample size of less than .25% of the total US population. To exaggerate concerns about protecting women against the boogeyman helps men like YOU (and me) ease our conscience, when all studies show over and over that it is men whom women know, who are in the lives of women, who are most likely to emotionally and physically harm women. Therefore, the supposed concern for protecting "women" is misdirected away from the **actual** perpetrators of harms toward women.

Second, as you know, being a student athlete is like having a full-time job. Student athletes are expected to add this responsibility to their lives in addition to just going to school. However, student athletes, especially women athletes, are not paid full time wages (even if they have full-ride scholarships), and they receive no retirement or health benefits (beyond access to trainers). If legislators like you **actually** cared about the welfare of student athletes, then bills should be proposed that all colleges and universities (and even most high schools) should pay their students fair wages with benefits, rather than exploiting them as walking advertisements for their mediocre schools. Fortunately some students are realizing this, and are unionizing against this economic exploitation of a vulnerable class of people (see <https://apnews.com/article/dartmouth-union-ncaa-cd01a33192c19e41e45ff74e84589097>).

Moreover, there are around 12 total transgender athletes in the NCAA. Again, targeting a miniscule number of people with the claim that it "protects women" or ensures fairness in sports distracts from what is really criminal: corporate (university or school) exploitation of workers. Additionally, every scientific study on the topic has demonstrated that fully transitioned women (formerly male) have no athletic advantage in physical performance in sports (<https://www.aclu.org/news/lgbtq-rights/four-myths-about-trans-athletes-debunked>). Again, fearmongering about a minority of people distracts from the real dangers.

Third, merely stating that "most Americans" want or do not want something is extremely misleading without proper statistical information. We know for a fact that the majority of Americans **do not even vote,** let alone express their concerns to or in legislative-adjacent settings. A simple glance at

vocal Americans on public comments for similar bills and proposals around the country demonstrate that the vast majority of Americans *who care* to vote and voice their concerns to legislators do not want any civil rights rescinded to any groups of historically marginalized people. You obviously know this, which is why you need to deflect substantive information with vague mentions of "many" Americans.

Fourth, as you know, "transgender" is an unfortunate term covering gender performance (feminine males; masculine females), like in the playground when boys pick on others to say "you throw like a girl!" But more substantially covers "sex" (male to female) regardless of gender performance. Transgender is *not* part of the so-called "gender ideology" (focused on masculine and feminine activities, like blue for boys and pink for girls), but instead is part of the protected category of *sex.* You know this. And yet you choose to exploit a mere semantic ambiguity to attempt to place transgender into mere gendered tendencies. With regard to biological sex, we know that it is not an "immutable fact of nature" that there are only two sexes. The bills themselves include the clause that "parents can take up to 6 months to decide the sex of their infant" (if the biological sex is "not clear"). Estimates range between .5 - 2% of people are born intersex or sex ambiguous. They should be free to be themselves without parents "forcing their sexist ideology" on their infants (to use your own way of speaking back to you). To claim that "male" and "female" sexes are the only ones that exist in nature shows that your thinking is more aligned with flat-earthers who believe it is an immutable fact of nature that the Sun sets and rises. You and I have never once seen an actual natural sunset and sunrise. We have known for at least 500 years (most people have known longer than that) that Earth rotates and orbits the Sun. There is no such thing as a natural sunset. Yet we enjoy them all the time! From our specific perspective. It is a fiction, just like we enjoy other fictions, but in no way scientific or common sense. You and many flat-earthers likely believe it is an "immutable fact of nature" that it is 2025 AD (or CE). But this is merely one among many ways that human groups organize marking time, and is no way part of "nature." While sex differences are useful *at times* for organizing people (and others in the animal kingdom), our methods of organization are not natural, but social. Biological research confirms this. It is degrading to "science" (to "truth" and to "reality") for the bills' drafters and supporters to claim anything of the sort.

Finally, one last note. "Ideology" is being used by you all as a synonym for a metaphysical worldview, as if there is such a thing as a Christian ideology, a "gender ideology," or Republican ideology. Ideologies are hidden from our awareness, more like an atheist in the US who dates their checks according to the Gregorian Christian calendar--supports Christianity without even realizing it. People who claim that sex (AND gender) is a continuum rather than a binary are looking at facts of nature and expressing an explicit view of the world. They are indeed still ideological because they use capitalist technologies or sexist institutions to express their view. That is, ideologies are what we are complicit with even if our explicit worldview is against an ideology. It makes you sound smarter than you are to use the word; but those who know what the word means see through the desperate jargon.

Hopefully in the next election proposers of such measures get voted out since they have demonstrated severe incompetence both with the lives they have been entrusted to serve and the very words of truth that are required for basic competent communication.

Warm regards,

Dr. Dickman

Citizen of Iowa, and the United States