

Statement for the Record
Representative Andy Barr
House Committee on Education and the Workforce
Regarding the Defend Girls Athletics Act

Chairman Walberg, thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement for the record in support of the Defend Girls Athletics Act. I am proud to lead this legislation to protect the integrity of women's sports and uphold basic principles of fairness, safety, and biological reality in our nation's schools.

Across the country, parents, students, and female athletes are raising serious concerns as biological males are increasingly allowed to compete in girls' and women's athletics. This trend is plainly unfair and undermines the purpose of Title IX, which Congress enacted more than fifty years ago. Title IX was designed to expand opportunities for women and girls, not to diminish them. Yet under prior federal guidance and activist policies in certain school districts and universities, women have seen their opportunities reduced, their scholarships threatened, and their accomplishments overshadowed.

President Trump recognized this growing problem and issued the Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports executive order, reaffirming that participation in female athletics must be based on biological sex. The Defend Girls Athletics Act codifies that policy and ensures that these protections cannot be weakened or reversed by a future administration. The legislation establishes a clear federal standard that schools and colleges receiving federal funds must limit participation in women's athletic programs to individuals whose biological sex is female. This standard is simple, rooted in common sense, and strongly supported by families across the nation.

To ensure accountability, the bill includes straightforward compliance measures. K-12 school districts must certify each year that they meet the federal standard, and states must verify that their districts follow the law. Schools or states that refuse to comply risk the loss of unobligated federal funds until they return to compliance. At the higher education level, colleges and universities must make the same annual certification to remain eligible for federal support, including grants and participation in federal student aid programs.

These expectations are reasonable. Institutions that receive federal taxpayer dollars should be required to uphold fairness and protect the integrity of girls' and women's sports. The legislation does not create burdensome new mandates. It simply ensures that female athletes can compete on a level playing field, without losing roster spots, scholarships, or championships to biological males.

Congress has a responsibility to uphold Title IX, defend women and girls, and ensure that federal education funding reinforces fairness, safety, and common sense. The Defend Girls Athletics Act fulfills that responsibility with clarity and resolve.

I urge my colleagues on the Committee and throughout Congress to support this essential legislation, which already has 57 cosponsors. Female athletes have waited long enough for the

federal government to stand with them. It is time to restore fairness, uphold Title IX, and defend girls' athletics nationwide.

Respectfully submitted
Representative Andy Barr
Kentucky's Sixth District