



Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee

Legislative Bill 89, "The Stand With Women Act"

Position: Favorable

February 7, 2024

Dear Members of the Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee,

My name is Beth Parlato, and I'm submitting this testimony on behalf of Independent Women's Law Center, where I serve as Senior Legal Advisor. Independent Women fights for women by expanding support for policy solutions that aren't just well intended, but actually enhance freedom, opportunities, and well-being.

I urge you today to support Legislative Bill 89, The Stand with Women Act.

Bureaucrats and elitists on the state level are redefining language to fit a false narrative, all designed to erase that women exist as biologically distinct from men. As a result, women and girls across the country have been forced to sacrifice their opportunities, privacy, and safety.

The Stand with Women Act would stop this sort of interpretive overreach and judicial activism by preserving the legal existence of women, as distinct from men.

It does so in two ways by defining sex-based words like 'woman,' and 'female,' already used in 149 Nebraska state statutes and providing legal protection to defend women's single-sex spaces and opportunities, such as sports, prisons, locker rooms, and women's domestic violence shelters.

The Stand with Women Act does not create any special rights for women nor does it take rights away from others. It simply safeguards women's existing right to have single-sex spaces to advance equal opportunity and to protect privacy, safety, and fairness.

Recent action on the federal level safeguarding women's rights is encouraging, but is not enough to ensure the rights of women and girls in Nebraska are upheld. The Nebraska Legislature must codify sex-based terms into state code by supporting LB 89 today.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Beth Parlato
Senior Legal Advisor
Independent Women
Beth.Parlato@iww.org

For questions, email states@iww.org.



Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee

Legislative Bill 89, "The Stand With Women Act"

Position: Favorable

February 7, 2024

Dear Members of Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee,

My name is Riley Gaines, and I am an Ambassador for Independent Women and a D1 athlete.

Prior to joining Independent Women, I was a student at the University of Kentucky where I was a member of UK's Women's Swim and Dive Team. I finished my career as a 12x NCAA All-American, 5x SEC champion, SEC record holder in the 200 butterfly making me the 10th fastest American of all time in the event, and 2x Olympic trial qualifier.

On March 17th, 2022, my teammates and I, as well as female swimmers from universities around the country, were forced to compete against a male named Lia Thomas. We watched on the side of the pool as Thomas swam to a national title in the 500-yard freestyle, beating out the most impressive and accomplished female swimmers in the country, including Olympians and American record holders. (Previously, Thomas had been ranked in the 400ths—at best—in the men's division.)

When I raced Thomas, we tied. We ended up with the same time—down to the hundredth of a second. Having only one trophy, the NCAA handed it to Thomas and told me I would go home empty-handed because Thomas needed to hold the trophy for photo purposes. I felt betrayed and belittled, reduced to a photo-op. But my feelings did not matter. What mattered to the NCAA were the feelings of a male.

I can attest to the tears that I witnessed from finishers who missed being named an All-American by one place. I can attest to the extreme discomfort in the locker room from 18-year-old girls exposed to male body parts and having to undress with a male watching in the same room. And I can attest to the fact that female athletes who protested the inclusion of Thomas in the women's division were threatened, intimidated, and emotionally blackmailed into silence and submission.

By allowing Thomas to join the women's swim team and compete in women's collegiate meets, the University of Pennsylvania, the Ivy League, and the colleges and universities that hosted Thomas at these meets prevented other women from competing at all, subjected female swimmers to a loss of privacy and dignity, inflicted emotional harm on female swimmers, and suppressed the free speech rights of female students to advocate for their rights.

Unfortunately, my story and the experiences of D1 swimmers are not unique. Across the country, and across various sports, female athletes are losing not only awards but opportunities to compete at all. Over 764 females have been displaced by males

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competing in women's sporting events. There are many more stories that never receive public attention because people are too frightened to speak out.

The Stand with Women Act would codify our common understanding of sex-based words like 'man' and 'woman' in state statutes so when it comes to interpreting Nebraska's laws that reference these terms, we are all speaking a common language. It would protect single-sex spaces and opportunities for the over 900,000 women and girls in Nebraska.

Sincerely,

Riley Gaines
Ambassador
Independent Women

Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee

Legislative Bill 89, "The Stand With Women Act"

Position: Favorable

Dear Members of Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee,

My name is Abigail New. My family moved to Omaha, Nebraska in 2005, and I spent the rest of my formative years in this great state. I urge you today to support Legislative Bill 89, The Stand with Women Act.

Growing up in Nebraska, I never could have imagined we would be debating what a woman is or whether we should preserve single-sex spaces in Nebraska. Over time, and especially over the last four years, I've witnessed women losing roster spots and spots on the podium. These are women who have worked their entire lives for a dream to get snatched from them and then are told they should accept defeat and lose gracefully.

I've heard the stories of women who have suffered emotional, psychological, sexual, and/or physical trauma experience the jarring effect of having males in their locker rooms and prison cells without their consent. Having experienced domestic violence, I know firsthand how distressing and debilitating it is to be forced to re-live trauma, even when I thought I was safe.

By turning a blind eye to this issue, female spaces and sports will remain unprotected in Nebraska and women's rights will remain under attack. I want to also note that action on the federal level does not solve this problem. It merely highlights the responsibility that the Nebraska Legislature has to our citizens to codify sex-based terms and ensure our laws are always based on objective truth and protect women and men as they were written to do. The federal government can't do that for us.

Remember, this takeover happened *slowly* over many years. Inaction on this issue has and will leave Nebraska women at the mercy of the federal government.

The Stand with Women Act defines and codifies the definitions of sex-based words like 'woman' and 'female' already used in 149 Nebraska state statutes. When these words aren't defined, women suffer the consequences and risk being erased.

The Stand with Women Act goes even further by preventing men from entering women's spaces, such as rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, prisons, locker rooms, and sororities, and taking women's opportunities.

Please do not misinterpret this bill to be something it is not. Merely adding widely understood definitions to existing terms and protecting women's hard-earned rights is not a controversial action. The best thing you can do for Nebraska women and girls is to vote yes on LB 89 today.

For questions, email states@iww.org.

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Thank you Senator Kathleen Kauth for introducing it and the many co-sponsors of this legislation for their support, and I urge you all to stand with the over 900,000 women and girls in my home state of Nebraska.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Abigail New
Abigail.New@iwv.org

Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee

Legislative Bill 89, "The Stand With Women Act"

Position: Favorable

Dear Members of Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee,

My name is Payton McNabb. I am an Ambassador at Independent Women and a former Volleyball athlete. I urge you to pass Legislative Bill 89 to protect female athletes from being permanently injured at the hands of a male player.

On Sept 1st, 2022, I was struck in the head by a spiked ball during my high school volleyball game by a male on the opposing team. As a result of the sheer impact of the ball, I received a concussion and neck injury.

I love sports—the camaraderie, discipline, the team bonding, and the confidence for the future. I was a 3 sport athlete in high school—participating in softball, basketball, and volleyball.

I was always very aware of the possibility of injury during competitive play, but my experience on the court that day was different. The hit was so violent that I was knocked unconscious, lying in a fencing position for over 30 seconds. Years later, my body and mind are still recovering from the hit. I still suffer from partial paralysis on my right side, vision problems, cognitive issues, constant headaches, and more.

This incident was 100% avoidable if my rights as a female athlete had not been excluded on the basis of being inclusive to allow a male to compete with women. I nor my teammates ever agreed to play against a male athlete. We were forced to by our state athletic association.

If the adults in the room don't start standing up and putting an end to this senseless threat to females, there won't be women's sports. Women have a right to a fair and equal opportunity on and off the playing field. Men have no place in our single-sex spaces.

I love being an athlete, as do the other girls I play with. I write to you today to represent not just myself but to ensure all female athletes—my little sister, my cousins, my teammates—have access to fair competition.

Women deserve to compete on a level playing field without fear of injury. I may be one of the first to come before you with an injury, but I can assure you I will not be the last if we don't protect female athletes. This is why it is crucial that you pass Legislative Bill 89 to prevent other women from suffering from injuries such as my own.

I urge you to stand with the over 900,000 women and girls in Nebraska and support LB 89 today.

For questions, email states@iww.org.

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Thank you.

Sincerely,

Payton McNabb
*Ambassador
Independent Women*

For questions, email states@iww.org.

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Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee

Legislative Bill 89, "The Stand With Women Act"

Position: Favorable

February 7, 2024

Dear Members of the Nebraska Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee,

I am Coach Kim Russell, Ambassador at Independent Women and advocate for women and girls. I am writing to you today to urge you to support Nebraska Legislative Bill 89, The Stand With Women Act. Women's sports have been my life and my passion. In college, I played two sports at the DI level, and I have been a women's lacrosse coach for 29 years. I have been inducted into three halls of fame for my contributions to the game of lacrosse and was appointed to the Women in Sports Commission for World Lacrosse (the governing body for the sport of lacrosse worldwide) in 2024.

Many of my players affectionately refer to me as the "Hippie Love Coach," not only because I'm a yoga instructor, am often barefoot, read energy, and coach intuitively, but because I've given countless individuals a safe space to thrive and feel a sense of belonging.

I've coached running down the sideline while nursing one child, with another in a backpack, while a third runs with me. I am a woman, through and through.

Never in a million years did I think I would be fighting to get back the rights that were given to women and girls almost 53 years ago.

When I accepted the job as Head Women's Lacrosse Coach & Wellness Instructor at Oberlin in August of 2018, I was so excited to be a part of an institution known for its academic rigor, open-minded dialogue, and freedom to express oneself. And then, I learned the truth. Oberlin—like many institutions of higher-ed these days—only supports free speech when your values align with theirs.

I learned this firsthand when I spoke out against males competing in women's sports. As my kids say, "Mama, you've been canceled twice." Canceled simply for saying what federal law requires: that women and men are entitled to equal athletic opportunities—opportunities that are not possible without single sex sport.

Without protections, opportunities to compete are taken away from women—to say nothing of trophies and awards. If allowed, this will endanger women in sports and private spaces and take away opportunities from women in sports and academia.

I will never apologize for believing that women and girls should have the right to single sex competition. I'm hoping that my speaking up will give other coaches, administrators, faculty, parents, and athletes the courage to do the same.

For questions, email states@iwv.org.

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Let's be honest about what is happening here: Young women are being groomed to accept discrimination; they are being groomed to compare their bodies to the bodies of hormonally impaired males, and they are being groomed to accept men in their private spaces.

You, Committee members, have the opportunity to be heroes. This is about upholding truth and preserving the dreams of females. I hope you will act to do so. Please vote yes for Legislative Bill 89.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kim Russell
Ambassador
Independent Women

Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee

Legislative Bill 89, "The Stand With Women Act"

Position: Favorable

February 7, 2024

Dear Members of Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee,

My name is Amie Ichikawa. I am an ambassador for Independent Women and the founder of Woman II Woman, a support group for incarcerated women, and I urge you to support Nebraska Legislative Bill 89, the Stand With Women Act.

I served nearly five years in the Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla, one of the largest women's prisons in the country. During that time, I personally experienced how vital it is to have single-sex spaces for the safety, privacy, and rehabilitation of incarcerated women. When California passed Senate Bill 132—the so-called "Transgender Respect, Agency, and Dignity Act"—in 2020, it allowed male inmates to transfer into women's prisons, even if they had not undergone any "gender-affirming" treatment. I began receiving desperate calls, letters, and emails from women still in prison, begging for help as men were being placed in their cells and their lives were turned upside down. We can't allow Nebraska to become like California, and without the Stand with Women Act, it will.

Women in prison already live in conditions where privacy is almost nonexistent. Now, they are being forced to share small, overcrowded spaces with men, including those with violent criminal histories and no intention of transitioning. These are not hypothetical concerns. I know of a male inmate who was isolated in a men's prison for assaulting his bunkmates but was transferred directly into a women's general population cell with seven women.

The Stand With Women Act is a necessary step to define common sex-based terms such as "female" and "male" in Nebraska law. Without clear definitions, policies that prioritize ideology over reality will continue to endanger the safety, privacy, and rights of women. This bill also ensures the protection of single-sex spaces, which are critical for the dignity and well-being of women in prisons, shelters, sports, and other settings.

We all want to ensure the rights of all are protected, but when men invade women's spaces, like prisons, women are disproportionately harmed and their rights are discarded in the name of inclusion. You can be both for equality and single-sex spaces.

This issue is deeply personal for me. I know what it's like to live in a cell where privacy is a luxury and safety is a constant concern. I know the fear of being unable to escape, of not being listened to when you ask for help. But I also know the importance of standing up for those who cannot stand up for themselves.

For questions, email states@iww.org.

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I urge this committee to pass Legislative Bill 89 to protect women's rights and restore fairness, safety, and dignity to spaces where women are most vulnerable.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Amie Ichikawa
*Ambassador
Independent Women*

Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee

Legislative Bill 89, "The Stand With Women Act"

Position: Favorable

February 7, 2024

Dear Members of the Nebraska Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee,

My name is Lauren Miller. I am an ambassador for Independent Women and a professional golfer, and I urge you to support Nebraska Legislative Bill 89, the Stand With Women Act.

Ever since I picked up a miniature set of golf clubs in first grade, I've dreamed of competing at the highest levels of women's golf. That dream became a reality when I earned my place as a professional golfer in 2023 and began pursuing qualification for the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) tour. However, my dream and the dreams of countless female athletes are now at risk due to policies that allow males who identify as women to compete in women's sports.

In January 2024, I competed in the NXXT Women's Championship, where I faced Hailey Davidson, a trans-identified male golfer. Davidson won the tournament, displacing me on the podium.

Golf is a sport where physical differences between the sexes are significant. Male golfers naturally possess advantages in strength, endurance, and clubhead speed, which translate into longer drives and greater control. These advantages are not erased by hormone therapy or surgery, as seen in Davidson's ability to hit the ball 20, 40, or even 50 yards farther than I could during competition.

Legislative Bill 89 is critical for addressing these challenges. By defining sex-based terms such as "female" and "male," this bill ensures clarity and consistency in Nebraska law. It also protects single-sex spaces and opportunities, which are essential for preserving fairness in women's sports and other areas where biological differences matter.

Sports are one area where sex differences cannot be ignored. Women's sports were created to give female athletes an opportunity to compete, excel, and showcase their talents on a fair playing field. Without clear protections, these opportunities will continue to erode, and young girls will see their dreams and accomplishments overshadowed by an uneven system.

I urge this committee to support Legislative Bill 89 and stand with the women and girls of Nebraska. This legislation is not about exclusion; it is about fairness, safety, and preserving the opportunities that women have worked so hard to achieve.

Thank you.

For questions, email states@iww.org.

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Sincerely,

Lauren Miller
Ambassador
Independent Women

For questions, email states@iww.org.

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Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee

Legislative Bill 89, "The Stand With Women Act"

Position: Favorable

February 7, 2024

Dear Members of Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee,

I'm Hannah Arnold, an ambassador for Independent Women and a professional golfer. I have played on the Epson tour, Cactus tour, Sunshine tour, a handful of LPGA events, and Women's All pro tour.

As a female golfer, I've had to confront stereotypes and stigmas about female golf itself. I've struggled with less funding and fewer sponsorships. I've had to work harder to earn a living and achieve my dream of a life dedicated to this beloved sport.

I know how much time and sacrifice goes into competing in women's professional golf, and now I feel a sense of duty to make sure other female golfers feel supported.

Allowing a man to compete against women is unfair; it undermines the hard work and obstacles women have overcome to compete. In sports, fairness is the entire basis of the exercise. Women's bodies are unique; it's why women's golf tours exist in the first place. Women, in a women's tour, should not have to face male golfers.

This may seem hypothetical, but it is not. This is real. Hailey Davidson, a trans-identifying male golfer advanced through the first stage of Q-School after finishing in a tie for 42nd. Every event Davidson competed in resulted in a female golfer who did not get the opportunity to play.

Competing at the highest level of golf has been my greatest honor. It has been the result of determination, years of hard work, and world-class skill. The Stand with Women Act will ensure that the next generation of women have access to fair competition and single-sex spaces.

I want to do everything that I can to make sure that women have the right to compete against women. Title IX was over 50 years ago, and I think it is our duty to keep carrying the torch for them.

For these reasons, I urge you to support Legislative Bill 89.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Hannah Arnold

For questions, email states@iww.org.

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*Ambassador
Independent Women*

For questions, email states@iww.org.

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Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee

Legislative Bill 89, "The Stand With Women Act"

Position: Favorable

February 7, 2024

Dear Members of the Nebraska Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee,

My name is Amy Olson. I am an ambassador for Independent Women, a professional golfer on the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) tour, a proud mother, and an advocate for fairness in women's sports. I urge you to support Nebraska Legislative Bill 89, the Stand With Women Act.

Since I was nine years old, I have dedicated my life to becoming the best athlete I could be. I trained rigorously, lifted weights, and pushed myself to maximize the potential of my body. My commitment to golf has allowed me to compete at the highest level, earning accolades such as holding the NCAA record for 20 collegiate wins and competing professionally on the LPGA Tour for 10 years. However, the opportunities I worked so hard for are now under threat due to policies that disregard the biological differences between men and women.

In women's golf, this issue has come to the forefront with male competitors, such as Hailey Davidson, displacing female athletes in professional tournaments.

Males inherently possess physical advantages over females, even after hormone therapy. These advantages, greater upper body strength, higher clubhead speed, and longer driving distances, are significant in golf, where every yard matters. Women's sports exist to provide female athletes with a fair chance to compete, excel, and achieve their dreams.

Legislative Bill 89 is a necessary step to protect fairness and equal opportunity. By clearly defining sex-based terms such as "female" and "male," this bill ensures that women's sports remain a space where females can compete on an even playing field. It also safeguards single-sex spaces, such as locker rooms, where women and girls deserve privacy and safety.

Women's sports are about more than trophies. They are a foundation for developing leadership, character, and resilience. My own journey in golf has shaped who I am today, and I want my daughter to have the same opportunities I had to grow, compete, and excel in a fair environment. Without legislative action, I fear that future generations of female athletes will be robbed of these experiences.

As a mother and a professional athlete, I believe it is my responsibility to stand up for what is right. Supporting Legislative Bill 89 is not about excluding anyone; it is about ensuring fairness and safeguarding the opportunities that women and girls deserve.

For questions, email states@iww.org.

 **Independent Women**®

I urge this committee to support Legislative Bill 89 and take a stand for fairness, integrity, and the protection of women in Nebraska.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Amy Olson
*Ambassador
Independent Women*

Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee

Legislative Bill 89, "The Stand With Women Act"

Position: Favorable

February 7, 2024

Dear Members of Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee,

I'm Allison Cohan, an Ambassador for Independent Women and a graduate of the University of Wyoming and member of Kappa Kappa Gamma (KKG).

In my freshman year of college I decided to go through sorority rush at University of Wyoming. When joining Kappa Kappa Gamma (KKG), I found a tight-knit group of friends in my sorority sisters. My senior year this was challenged when a male wanted to access our female-only community.

Initially, my sisters and I felt safe after Langford was not admitted into KKG during formal recruitment. In reality, however, our sorority leadership was keeping members in the dark. Eventually, our sorority leadership told us that although voting on membership had already occurred, we would be required to vote on Langford's membership a second time.

The way that this second vote was conducted was extremely unusual and pressured us into voting in favor of Langford's admission by forcing us to attach our email to our vote, instead of the standard practice of voting anonymously.

The "scare tactics" and "bullying" that they used were effective, and KKG admitted Langford as a member of our sorority. The aftermath of this vote was best described as a "grieving process," especially for my fellow sorority members with histories of sexual assault by men. These women were now forced to allow a man 24/7 access to the place that they lived.

The lessons I learned from my experience will stay with me forever. I'm reminded every day of how important this fight is, and that I'm not doing this for me. I'm doing this for future generations, my niece and my cousin, so that they can enjoy all of these things that I got the chance to enjoy and not have to fight for it.

This is why I urge you to pass the Stand with Women Act. It is crucial that Nebraska law protects private spaces for women, even more than just sororities. Locker rooms, prisons, rape-crisis centers, and athletic teams are also at risk. At a bare minimum, Nebraska's over 900,000 women are entitled to expect that when public officials designate spaces as single-sex, those spaces are, in fact, reserved for either women or men, not both.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Allison Cohan
Ambassador
Independent Women

For questions, email states@iww.org.

 **Independent Women**®

Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee

Legislative Bill 89, "The Stand With Women Act"

Position: Favorable

February 7, 2024

Dear Members of the Nebraska Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee,

My name is Maddie Ramar. I am an ambassador for Independent Women, a nursing student at the University of Wyoming and a proud member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. I am writing in support of Nebraska Legislative Bill 89, the Stand With Women Act.

When I joined Kappa Kappa Gamma, I was looking for a community of women, a sisterhood where I could feel supported and safe. For a time, that's exactly what I found. Living in a women-only sorority house provided a sanctuary during a stressful and formative time in my life. It was a place where my friends and I could grow, bond, and support each other, free from the pressures and concerns that often arise in mixed-sex spaces.

But that sense of safety and belonging was disrupted in the fall of 2022 when my sorority admitted a male student. Despite initial assurances from leadership that this individual would not be allowed to join, the decision was reversed, and active members were pressured to vote for his admission. Those of us who raised concerns were labeled as "transphobic."

This male student shared our living space, and while we tried to maintain a sense of normalcy, his presence has fundamentally changed the environment. He is physically larger than the rest of us, and many of my sisters feel uncomfortable and unsafe in what is supposed to be our home.

Women's organizations like Kappa Kappa Gamma were created to provide spaces where women can thrive, free from concerns about privacy and safety. Female-only spaces are not just about tradition; they are about creating environments where women can feel secure, supported, and empowered.

When my sisters and I sought legal action to protect our female space, the Federal Judge dismissed our case, citing "the court will not define 'woman' today."

Nebraska Legislative Bill 89 is essential for ensuring your judges have clarity on the most basic sex-based terms so they can appropriately interpret your statutes. . By clearly defining sex-based terms such as "female" and "male," this bill ensures that women's organizations, private spaces, and opportunities are protected for females. It provides clarity and consistency in Nebraska law, ensuring that policies cannot be twisted to compromise the rights of women and girls.

For questions, email states@iww.org.

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My story is not unique. Across the country, women's spaces and organizations are being challenged in ways that disregard the importance of biological reality. This issue is bigger than just one sorority; it's about preserving the right of all women to have safe and private spaces, whether in sports, shelters, or student housing.

I urge this committee to pass Legislative Bill 89 and take a stand for fairness, safety, and common sense. Women's spaces matter, and they are worth protecting.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Maddie Ramar
Ambassador
Independent Women

Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee

Legislative Bill 89, "The Stand With Women Act"

Position: Favorable

February 7, 2024

Dear Members of Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee,

My name is Jaylyn Westenbroek, and I am an ambassador for Independent Women, an alumna of the University of Wyoming, and a former member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. Today, I am sharing my story to express my strong support for Nebraska Legislative Bill 89, the Stand With Women Act.

When I joined Kappa Kappa Gamma, I found more than a sorority, I found a home. My sisters were there for me during a difficult time in my freshman year, and their kindness inspired me to rush. For a while, it was the best decision I had ever made. I made lifelong friends, gained valuable leadership experience, and felt a strong sense of belonging in our women-only community.

That sense of safety and sisterhood began to fall apart in the fall of 2022, when our chapter admitted a male. Despite assurances from sorority leadership that this individual would not live in the house if anyone felt uncomfortable, those promises were broken. When my sisters and I voiced our concerns, we were dismissed, silenced, and, ultimately, pushed out.

The sorority house was supposed to be a safe space, a haven where women could support each other without fear or discomfort. But with the presence of a male in our home, that safety was compromised. Many of us felt uncomfortable, but leadership pressured us to accept the situation, labeling anyone who objected as "transphobic." Efforts to request a revote were shut down, and those of us who stood up for our concerns faced retaliation.

Eventually, I was forced to resign my membership after being told that I wasn't a "true Kappa" for advocating for the sorority's original mission: a sisterhood for women. It was a heartbreaking decision to leave behind the community I had poured my time, effort, and heart into, but I couldn't stay silent in the face of such injustice.

Legislative Bill 89 is essential for protecting the integrity of female-only spaces. By defining sex-based terms such as "female" and "male," this bill ensures that spaces designed for women remain safe, supportive, and fair. This isn't just about sororities—it's about protecting all women's spaces, from sports teams to shelters, where privacy and safety are paramount.

I urge this committee to pass Legislative Bill 89 and take a stand for the safety, dignity, and rights of women and girls in Nebraska. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you.

For questions, email states@iww.org.

 **Independent Women**®

Sincerely,

Jaylyn Westenbroek
Ambassador
Independent Women

For questions, email states@iww.org.

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