



Testimony for Texas House Bill 229
April 25, 2025

Dear Members of the House State Affairs Committee,

My name is Payton McNabb. I am an Ambassador at Independent Women and a former Volleyball athlete. I urge you to pass HB 229.

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 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.

I appreciate that Texas has already taken action to protect women's sports, but sports is just one example where women are facing sex-discrimination. This is why it is crucial that you pass HB 229 to define common sex-based terms.

I write to you today to represent not just myself but also my sister who lives in Texas and the over 14 million women and girls in Texas who deserve for their rights to be safeguarded.

Please stand with women and support HB 229 today.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Payton McNabb
Ambassador
Independent Women

For questions, email states@iww.org.

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