

February 28th, 2022

To: Alaska State Senate – Education Committee Members

Fr: Concerned Active & Former Alaskan Coaches and Athletes

Re: Supporting the Alaska Even Playing Field Act – SB 140

As former and active coaches and athletes in Alaska, we submit to you this statement in support of Senator Shelley Hughes legislation - SB 140 – the **Even Playing Field Act**.

Girls are losing their right to an equal playing field because they are being forced to compete against biological boys. This is unfair and *demands* a response -- **which is why we need you, as a state policy maker to take a stand!** Please support SB 140 and vote yes to protect women's and girl's sports.

SB 140 is similar to what has been introduced in dozens of other states, would preserve Title IX protections for women and girls and guarantee fairness by ensuring that biological boys compete against biological boys and biological girls compete against biological girls. Title IX was enacted in 1972 to stop discrimination and create equal athletic opportunities for women.

Allowing biological males to compete against biological females ignores the scientific fact that males have an overwhelming physical advantage over women and girls. They have greater bone density, bigger hearts and lungs, are typically larger, and have more muscle strength. This not only makes the competition unfair, but it also makes many sports physically unsafe for women if they are forced to compete against men.

Because of biology, thousands of high school boys can consistently outperform Olympic level women athletes. In fact, in one year 275 high school boys beat the lifetime best record of World Champion Sprinter, Allyson Felix.

If the best female athletes in the world can't compete against high school boys, why would we force high school girls to compete against them? A male's belief about his gender doesn't erase his physical advantages over female athletes.

We want everyone to have the opportunity to compete in sports and have access to a fair playing field. Competing in sports teaches valuable life lessons and gives kids and young adults confidence, discipline, and perseverance. It's no surprise that 96% of female CEOs competed in sports.

We need the Even Playing Field Act in Alaska. Not just for young women today, but also for women in generations to come. We encourage you to act today by voting YES for SB 140 – a bill that addresses this incredibly important public policy matter.

Current Supporters of SB 140 – the Even Playing Field Act

Larry Whitmore	14 time State Track and Field Coach of the Year, induction into the National High School Coaches Hall of Fame
Marcus Dunbar	Former Bartlett High School state champion in track, Kodiak coach for many years, official for track and field
Tanner Ealum	Gatorade State Player of the Year in Alaska girls track & field as a Senior Won 13 AK state track & field titles, including four (100, 200, 400 & 4 x 400) as a senior Currently running track and Liberty University
Joe Alward	Former West High School runner in track, coach at West High School and track and field official
Doug Herron	Former Bartlett High School track and cross country state champion. national and world champion in the 800 meters with the fastest high school time in the 800 meters in the nation
Lance Williamson	Former runner for West High School, and former coach from Homer High School
Robert Tedrick	Former Bartlett runner and official for track and field
Johnny Mc Grew	Former Bartlett High School, state recorder holder and champion in the 800meters. Coach at Dimond High School
Katrina Reed Lande	ran for Service High School
Kenny Davidson	former Bartlett High runner
Gary Howell	former Wasilla High School coach
Ron Langseth	former Valdez High School coach
Dan Marshall	Seward High School coach
Paul Dougherty	former Bartlett High School runner
Mike Luedke	Rugby coach
Trevor Dunbar	coach and runner
Miles Dunbar	runner
Judy Ann Carsten	mother and grandmother of many top Alaskan athletes, most recent, granddaughter is Bethany Carsten a star runner from Nikiski High School now competing in college
Beverley O'Keefe Williams	hockey mother
Jaymi Bethea Linscheid	Kodiak High School cross country state champion
Mark Stewart	Bartlett High runner, father of three good Colony High School female runners
Jeff Hamberger	coach from Cordova High School
Aaron Dickson	Palmer High School runner
Camille Jamposky	National heptathlon champion - Competed at Univ of Oregon
Craig Kelpinger	Bartlett High School former runner
Cory Pena	Kodiak High School state champion
Kerry Wyatt	former East Anchorage High runner and athlete
Michael Janecek	Former coach Palmer High School, track and field official
Sarah Robbins	Female athlete
Jake Moe	Anchorage Christian School coach and runner
Steve Jordan	Coach
Levi Fried	Kodiak High School 800meter champion