



April 14, 2023

RE: **H.R. 734 – OPPOSE**

Dear Members of Congress:

The Team USA Athletes' Commission (Team USA AC), formally known as the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee Athletes' Advisory Council (AAC), serves as the representative group and voice of Team USA athletes (approximately 5,000 athletes). We write to you today voice our opposition to H.R. 734, "The Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2023."

H.R. 743 does not align with the Team USA AC position, as detailed in our June 2022 Statement on Transgender and Nonbinary Athlete Inclusion:

"The AAC [now Team USA AC], which serves as the representative group and voice of Team USA athletes, seeks to promote a safe and welcoming environment for everyone involved in sport, consistent with the AAC's core values of championing diversity, equity and inclusion.

Everyone should have equal access to and opportunity in sport. The AAC opposes any attempt to marginalize, limit or deny human rights and is on the side of inclusion of all participants in youth sports. Banning transgender and nonbinary kids from sports ostracizes from a fundamental part of growing up and all the benefits sports provide to youth.

The AAC also recognizes the difference between youth sports (K-12 and recreational) and elite sports. Competitive sport relies on a level playing field where no athlete has an unfair and disproportionate advantage over another. Sport must ensure everyone, irrespective of their gender identity or sex characteristics, can compete in a safe environment that respects and recognizes their needs and identities while balancing the interests of ensuring fair competition. Like the IOC, we echo that simply because an athlete is transgender or has an intersex variation, does not mean they automatically have a competitive advantage in sport.

Each sport's governing body should be given the latitude to determine how an athlete may be at a disproportionate advantage over another considering the nature of each sport. Eligibility criteria play a paramount role in ensuring fairness, particularly at the elite level. Such criteria should be evidence-based, employ a stakeholder centered approach and be grounded in inclusion, prevention of harm, fairness and nondiscrimination. As the AAC, we remain committed to ensuring all athletes have the right to participate in sport in a way that respects their health, safety and dignity.'

The blanket exclusion that H.R. 734 would mandate for every age, every sport, and every level of competition is contrary to Title IX's mandate of equal access to educational opportunities.



We ask all members of Congress to oppose H.R. 732. For further information or questions, please reach out to Elizabeth Ramsey, Team USA AC Executive Director, via email at elizabeth.ramsey@teamusa-ac.org or by cell at 719-418-9822.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Ladwig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Ladwig
Chair, Team USA Athletes' Commission