



## Women's Human Rights Campaign

Testimony of Vajra Ma, Chair, Women's Human Rights Campaign USA

Regarding House Bill No. 276

February 16, 2021

Thank you, Representative Singleton, for allowing me the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding [House Bill No. 276](#).

The Women's Human Rights Campaign (WHRC) is a global nonpartisan group of volunteer women dedicated to protecting women's sex-based rights. Our volunteers include academics, writers, organizers, activists, lawyers, and health practitioners. [The Declaration on Women's Sex Based Rights](#) was created by the founders of WHRC to lobby nations to maintain language protecting women and girls on the basis of sex rather than "gender" or "gender identity."

I am the chair of WHRC USA, the U.S. chapter of WHRC. WHRC USA is committed to endorsing legislation that would protect these opportunities for women and girls and would like to offer formal support for House Bill No. 276 contingent upon replacing the word "gender" with "sex" where "gender" appears in the text.

Subsection (k)(1) reads, "As used in this subsection, the term 'gender' shall mean a person's biological sex and shall be solely recognized based on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth." Subsection (k)(2) reads in part, "No local school system or private school...that permit a person whose gender is male to participate in any interscholastic or intramural athletics that are designated for females." While WHRC USA supports the intention of the bill, the text as currently written protects "gender", which is understood in common parlance to denote a subjective experience based on regressive sex-role stereotyping, as a legally protected category. "Gender identity" is sure to find its way into administrative and judicial interpretations that misunderstand the definition of "gender" in this bill as it stands. It is for this reason that WHRC USA cannot support this bill as currently written; but we will support it if you replace "gender" with "sex" wherever the word "gender" appears in the text.

To be clear, it is the position of WHRC USA that “sex” should be used in all state and federal legislation that governs women’s and girls’ rights, which must be based on our biology as the childbearing sex.

Thank you for your consideration regarding the requested amendments to the text of House Bill No. 276. WHRC appreciates the intention of this bill and thanks you for protecting the right of female athletes to fair competition in the State of Georgia.

Vajra Ma  
Chair, WHRC USA