

# PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SPORTS ACT OF 2023

Rep. Greg Steube

## BACKGROUND:

Since Title IX of the *Education Amendments of 1972* (Title IX) was enacted 50 years ago, female participation in sports has increased 1,057 percent at the high school level and 614 percent at the [postsecondary level](#). Title IX revolutionized women's sports, but unfortunately, that progress is under threat today.

## THE PROBLEM:

On April 6, the Biden administration released a regulation that, when finalized, will eliminate states' ability to comprehensively protect women and girls from discrimination in athletics. The regulation will eliminate policies enacted by 20 states to protect equal athletic opportunities for women and girls and generate mass confusion about the circumstances under which states, schools, and institutions can protect the integrity of women's athletic competitions. Ignoring the biological differences between men and women is a catastrophe for women. It destroys a level playing field and makes women second class citizens in their own sports.

## THE SOLUTION:

Congress passed Title IX to increase athletic opportunities for women, and now we must take further steps to protect the progress of the last 50 years. The *Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2023* strengthens the law's existing protections for women, ensures a level playing field for female athletes, and protects the law from the Biden administration's radical regulatory scheme. Specifically, the bill:

- ✓ Clarifies that a recipient of federal education funding violates Title IX's prohibition against sex discrimination if the recipient operates, sponsors, or facilitates athletic programs or activities and allows a person whose sex is male to participate in an athletic program or activity that is designated for women or girls.
- ✓ States that sex in the athletic context must be recognized based only on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth.
- ✓ Clarifies that the bill's provisions do not prohibit schools or institutions from permitting males to practice against women's sports teams, protecting the long-standing routine of some women's athletic programs of practicing or scrimmaging against males.

