

SENATE RESOLUTION

8647

By Senators Warnick and Short

1 WHEREAS, Women's sports promote physical, mental, and emotional  
2 well-being, encouraging young girls and women to pursue excellence,  
3 develop leadership skills, and serve as role models for future  
4 generations; and

5 WHEREAS, Since the passage of Title IX of the Education  
6 Amendments of 1972, participation in women's sports at the high  
7 school and collegiate levels has increased by over 1,000 percent,  
8 contributing to the remarkable growth in the popularity, visibility,  
9 and power of women's sports, resulting in increased attendance and  
10 expanded media coverage at women's sporting events; and

11 WHEREAS, Prior to the passage of Title IX, fewer than 300,000  
12 girls participated in high school sports, whereas by 2023, that  
13 number had grown to 3.4 million, and the number of female athletes in  
14 college athletics increased from 30,000 in 1972 to 215,000 in 2023;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The growing popularity of women's sports from collegiate  
17 athletics to professional leagues has fostered greater visibility,  
18 recognition, and financial support, contributing to the empowerment  
19 of women across the nation and inspiring a new generation of female  
20 athletes; and

21 WHEREAS, The continued success of women's sports is a testament  
22 to the hard work, dedication, and perseverance of athletes, coaches,

1 and support staff who have worked tirelessly to build competitive,  
2 fair, and inclusive opportunities for female athletes; and

3 WHEREAS, Spokane was proudly selected to host elite female  
4 college basketball teams from across the country for the NCAA's Sweet  
5 16 and Elite 8 series, showcasing the extraordinary talent and  
6 competitive spirit of women's athletics on a national stage; and

7 WHEREAS, Female athletes have flourished through opportunities to  
8 compete with each other rather than competing with biological men  
9 because it often puts women at a disadvantage due to biological  
10 males' inherent physiological advantages, such as greater muscle  
11 mass, bone density, and lung capacity, which can impact competitive  
12 balance and undermine equal opportunities for women; and

13 WHEREAS, Former competitive swimmer Riley Gaines, a 12-time All-  
14 American and 5-time SEC Champion, tied for 5th place in the 200-yard  
15 freestyle final at the 2022 NCAA Women's Swimming Championships and  
16 has since become a prominent and outspoken advocate for fairness in  
17 women's sports; and

18 WHEREAS, Young female athletes have demonstrated their concerns  
19 about safety and fairness by protesting biological males competing in  
20 women's sports, including two female basketball players from  
21 Tumwater, Washington, who chose to sit out after their school allowed  
22 a biological male from a competing school to play against their team;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Tennis legend and 18-time Grand Slam champion Martina  
25 Navratilova, a member of the LGBTQ community, has been a vocal  
26 advocate for maintaining fairness in women's sports by opposing the  
27 inclusion of biological males in female categories, emphasizing the  
28 importance of preserving equal opportunity for women; and

29 WHEREAS, The principle of fairness remains fundamental in all  
30 sports, ensuring that all athletes compete on a level playing field  
31 and are given the opportunity to achieve their fullest potential;

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate  
33 acknowledge the profound and lasting impact of Title IX on women's  
34 sports and the role athletics have played in addressing  
35 discrimination and systemic barriers faced by women, giving female  
36 athletes the visibility they deserve; and

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate honor  
38 the contributions of female athletes across the United States who

1 have inspired generations of young girls to pursue their dreams in  
2 sports and beyond.

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