



## WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 7, 2025**

### **WCC TESTIFIES IN SUPPORT OF DESIGNATING K-12 SCHOOL SPORTS BY SEX**

On March 6, the Wisconsin Catholic Conference offered [testimony](#) in support of [Assembly Bill 100](#), which requires K-12 schools to designate school sports teams based on the biological sex of the student.

WCC Associate Director David Earleywine began by articulating the Catholic Church's teaching on this issue, stating:

As Catholics, we believe that every human being is made in the image and likeness of God and is deserving of dignity, respect, and compassion. We know every person is born biologically and genetically either male or female. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops explained that "Consistent with the Catholic Church's clear teaching on the equality of men and women, we reaffirm that, in education and in sports as elsewhere, policies must uphold human dignity. This includes equal treatment between women and men and affirmation of the goodness of a person's body, which is genetically and biologically female or male.

Every person should be given the opportunity to take part in sports. However, it does not follow that every team must be open to all who wish to join, especially when basic fairness and dignity are at stake. The USCCB wrote that "male competition in activities designated for women and girls can be both unfair and, especially in high-contact sports, unsafe.

At the same time, Earleywine explained that the Catholic Church insists that "Students who experience gender dysphoria bear the full measure of human dignity, and they therefore must be treated with kindness and respect. Similar to their peers, those students must be assured the right to participate in or try out for co-educational activities in accord with their biological sex." All who identify as transgender are "equally loved by God" and "bear the full measure of human dignity, and they therefore must be treated with kindness and respect." The Church stands firmly against all unjust discrimination.

Earleywine concluded by urging people to treat everyone with charity and dignity, and suggested three ways to accomplish this:

First, we must will the good of the other. To love like Christ means to desire the good of the individuals in our lives: walking with them, listening to them with empathy, and accompanying them with compassion and truth.

Second, we must avoid the extremes. We must not dogmatically assert that biological sex is the end of the conversation while ignoring the pain of the person in front of us; nor must we reject biological reality in the false hope of relieving pain.

Finally, we must uphold the truth. We must both affirm God-given biological sex and condemn unjust discrimination in all its forms. True compassion knows no other way.

Since the public hearing, the Assembly committee has taken no further action. Last session, a similar bill passed the Legislature, but was vetoed by Governor Evers.

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