

**Testimony SJR8 Janine Hansen, State President Nevada Families for Freedom
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SJR8 Harms Women!**

On behalf of Nevada Families for Freedom and the thousands of families we represent throughout the state, we urge you to oppose state Equal Rights Amendment SJR8. The following are just a few ways in which SJR8 harms women

Taxpayer Funded Abortion

The American Bar Association has noted that "state equal rights amendments have been very effective in cases involving reproductive rights.

"(<https://www.americanbar.org/groups/diversity/women/publications/perspectives/2018/october-november/advocates-reignite-fight-an-equal-rights-amendment/>)

In both New Mexico and Connecticut, courts used state Equal Rights Amendments to overturn restrictions on abortions and mandate taxpayer funding of elective Medicaid abortions with the rationale that since abortion is unique to women, restricting abortions is a form of sex discrimination. ” (*N.M. Right to Choose/NARAL v. Johnson*, 975 P.2d 841, 1998; and *Doe v. Maher*, 515 A.2d 134 [Conn Super. Ct. 1986])

Allowing Boys to Participate in Girls Sports

As Dr. Michelle Cretella, Executive Director of the American Association of Pediatricians recently explained that protecting "gender identity or expression," as SJR8 does puts girls at a significant disadvantage in sports. Cretella notes, "Boys are literally running away with state level championship titles in girls' sports because they identify as transgender. How is it just to award honors - which could include athletic college scholarships - reserved for female high school athletes, to boys who are innately biologically bigger, stronger and faster?"

Threatening Women and Girls' Safety

Dr. Cretella goes on to describe the ways in which legal protection for gender identity, instead of biological sex threaten women's safety. Cretella states, "Of greater concern, gender identity has been used to allow biological males in spaces previously reserved for women. As a result, girls and women are suffering sexual assaults at the hands of biological men in women's shelters, , women's prisons and even elementary school girls' bathrooms.

In Massachusetts, the state ERA was used to overturn the practice of using stricter penal discipline with male inmates who are much more violent in jail than female inmates. As a result, female inmates will have to be subjected to equally harsh discipline (*DuPont v. Wyzanski*, 2004 Mass. Super. Ct. 2004).

While SJR8 allows biological boys who identify as female an advantage over biological girls, state ERAs have been used to strip girls of benefits. For example, under Pennsylvania's ERA, gender-based automobile insurance rates were disapproved by the state insurance

commissioner due to a claim of sex discrimination. Now women will have to pay the same rates as men even if they statistically have better driving records (Hartford Accident & Indemnity Co. v. Insurance Commissioner, 482 A.2d 542 [Pa. 1984] and 543-44).

SJR8 will result result in inequality and confusion and will eliminate protections and benefits women currently enjoy. We strongly urge you to oppose this bill!