

“ THE PECK PERSPECTIVE ”

(From the Capitol)

March 13, 2023

Additional Protections for Females: It's truly sad that the Kansas Legislature, and legislatures across the United States, have to pass legislation to keep men out of women's spaces. But since society has gone totally bonkers, men and women of courage are stepping up to provide commonsense protections.

In last week's *Perspective* I wrote about SB 180, legislation to establish the Women's Bill of Rights – keeping males out of places (dressing rooms, prisons, restrooms, etc.) specifically designated for females. On Thursday, March 9th, the Senate passed, HB 2238 by a vote of 28–11, The Fairness in Women's Sports Act.

Although the Fairness in Women's Sports Act has passed the Senate twice in the past two years, and we all knew no one was going to change how they would vote, we spent an hour and seventeen minutes “discussing” the bill. Opponents of the legislation resorted to name-calling by claiming proponents were hateful and ignorant. However, proponents worked to keep the discussion on point pertaining to FAIRNESS for biological women.

To fully understand why conservatives are willing to invest the energy to pass bills like HB 2238, I'll back up a few days in the process. During the committee hearing, the Senate Education Committee heard testimony from a female collegiate swimmer, Riley Gaines Barker. She shared her personal experience of when she was forced to compete against and share a locker room with William Thomas, a biological male, who goes by the name Lia Thomas and says he has “transitioned” to a female. Riley shared the horror as she and other female swimmers from across the country, were forced to share a private space with a 6'3” male exposing his genitalia. If that were not enough, after tying in a race with Thomas, Riley was told she would not receive the trophy or stand on the podium but would receive her trophy in the mail. Riley's exact quote in her testimony was: *“We ended up with the same time – down to the hundredth of a second. Having only one trophy, the NCAA handed it to Thomas and told me I would go home empty handed because Thomas needed to hold the trophy for photo purposes. I was shocked. I felt betrayed and belittled, reduced to a photo-op. But my feelings did not matter. What mattered to the NCAA were the feelings of a biological male.”*

So, why would the guy, competing as a girl, get the trophy and a place on the podium, while the true female was left on the sideline? A photo-op. Ridiculous!

The Fairness in Women's Sports Act is about just that – fairness. It simply sets guidelines that continue to ensure a fair playing field for natural females.

HB 2238 previously passed the house, 82–40, so it will soon be on Governor Kelly's desk. Although she's twice vetoed such legislation (in 2021 & 2022), remember her campaign TV ad from last year where she said *“So just let me say it: Of course men*

should not play girls' sports. OK, we all agree there." We'll all soon learn if those words were just campaign rhetoric, or if she was honest in what she said.

Interestingly, on the same day we debated HB 2238, which was also International Women's Day, First Lady Jill Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken presented a "Woman of Courage" award to a biological male from Argentina. As I said, society has gone bonkers.

Saving Taxes on Store Coupons: Not many Kansas shoppers know that when they use a manufacturer's coupon at a store to reduce the price of an item that the sales tax is still collected on the full price of the item. Last week the Senate addressed the issue by passing SB 53. Passage of SB 53 will exclude from the sales price the amount of the coupon for the purpose of collecting the retail sales tax. SB 53 passed 39-0 and is now on the House side.

Oklahoma Votes No – What Will Kansas Do? Oklahoma voters soundly defeated State Question 820, which would have legalized marijuana for recreational use. The 61.7% to 38.3% defeat of the question sent a strong message that Oklahoma voters are fed-up with the proliferation of marijuana use in their state. Oklahoma legalized marijuana for "medical" use in 2018 and currently has over 2,800 licensed dispensaries. It's estimated that 1 in 10 (10%) Oklahoma residents have a medical card to buy and consume marijuana.

I bring the Oklahoma vote up because there are bills in the Kansas Legislature to legalize marijuana for medical purposes. I frequently hear from residents along the Oklahoma border that they don't want marijuana legalized in any form in Kansas. What say you? Let me know your thoughts on the legalization of marijuana.

Until next time, may the blessings of God be yours

Virgil Peck
State Senator