PAGE 4 BLUE VALLEY TIMES JULY 22, 2025

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### Female Athletes Deserve a Level Playing Field

By State Rep. Ann Flood

Following up on last week's story regarding the Fairness in Women's Sports Act, I remain committed to fighting for female athletes.

Female athletes have worked hard for a fair chance to compete and succeed. Because biological males have physical advantages, allowing them to compete in girls' and women's sports creates an uneven playing field. That is why I continue to support the Fairness in Women's Sports Act, which would ensure only biological females can compete on girls' and women's teams.

The bill passed the state Senate with bipartisan support in May but has stalled in the House Education Committee. When we tried to bring it to the full House for a vote last week, majority Democrats blocked the effort by sending it to another committee, effectively bypassing our effort for now.

Allowing biological males to compete in women's sports takes opportunities such as scholarships and recognition away from female athletes who have worked tirelessly to earn them. The Fairness in Women's Sports Act is a vital step to pro-



tect those opportunities and the future of women's sports in Pennsylvania. I will keep fighting for our female athletes.

In October, I met with Riley Gaines (pictured), a 12-time All-American swimmer and advocate for fairness in women's sports. She is a national leader in defending women's single-sex spaces and equal opportunities.

## **Human Trafficking Prevention Bill Passes House**

By State Rep. Ann Flood

Recognizing human trafficking as one of the fastest growing crimes in the nation, I recently joined my fellow lawmakers in approving a bill that would direct higher education institutions to provide exploitation prevention and education programs to their students.

House Bill 538 would allow these institutions to partner with nonprofit organizations to provide first-year students with an opportunity to attend a series of in-depth prevention and education programs regarding sex trafficking and exploitation. Program materials would be provided at no cost to students.

Under the bill, students would learn about federal and state laws relating to human trafficking, facts and statistics about the crime, methods used to coerce victims, risk factors that make an individual more vulnerable to human trafficking, and how to identify victims and what to do to help them.

The bill is awaiting Senate consideration.

