

CONCERNED
WOMEN *for* AMERICA
OF IOWA

September 20, 2024

Barbara J. Wilson
President
University of Iowa
2900 University Capitol Centre
Iowa City, IA 52242
Email: president@uiowa.edu

Dear President Wilson,

The University of Iowa's women's volleyball program hosted the Hawkeye Invitational on September 6-8, 2024. Invited teams included San Jose State University, University of Delaware, and California Baptist University.

As a statewide organization standing for the rights and protections of women on the basis of sex, Concerned Women for America (CWA) of Iowa has an interest in ensuring our citizens are aware of activities compromising female athletes in our state.

We are writing to ask: What is the University of Iowa policy on transgender athlete participation in women's sports? Why did the University of Iowa choose to invite a women's volleyball team to participate in the Hawkeye Invitational that rosters a male in the position of outside hitter?

In April 2024, a news article¹ reported that a male born player, Blaire Fleming, had been competing on San Jose State University's women's volleyball team since 2022. Blaire Fleming, formerly known as Brayden, previously competed on Coastal Carolina University's women's team. Despite this public revelation, San Jose State re-rostered Fleming as a redshirt senior for the 2024-25 season.

Among other things, CWA of Iowa is concerned about the secrecy surrounding such players in women's sports. Did the NCAA notify the University of Iowa that a trans-identifying male player was competing in Division I women's volleyball? Did the University of Iowa notify other teams that an invited team including a trans-identifying male was a participant in this tournament? How did the University notify its players and prepare its female athletes to compete against a male player knowing the heightened risk for injury, especially concussions?

In a letter² to U.S. Senators dated August 21, 2024, NCAA President Charlie Baker indicated that member institutions have a right to opt out of participation in a policy that forces female athletes to compete on an unfair and unsafe playing field:

"The NCAA's transgender student-athlete participation policy is not mandatory, and federal, state and local laws supersede the Association's policy. Schools may also choose to operate in a different way due to institutional values."

In 2022, Iowa's legislature passed the Save Women's Sports bill which was signed into law by Gov. Kim Reynolds. The law restricts participation in sports designated for women or girls to students of female sex at all levels of education. Under Iowa law, Blaire Fleming would be ineligible to participate on any Iowa women's team. Neither could the University of Iowa roster a biological male player to match up against an opponent rostering the same.

Title IX was enacted in 1972 to ensure equality of opportunity and benefits for student-athletes on the basis of sex. Federal law allows separation by sex to respect and protect the enduring differences between the sexes, which includes matters of safety during play, privacy in locker rooms, and fairness in competition.

It is our expectation that the University of Iowa desires to maintain the values of Iowans and to uphold our laws in administering its athletic programs, including the rights of female athletes to sex-separated participation and fair and safe athletic competition at all levels of education.

CWA of Iowa appreciates your attention to this request and looks forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Tamara Scott
State Director

¹¹ [EXCLUSIVE: Biological Male Quietly Joined Women's NCAA Division I Volleyball At San Jose State University, Reduxx](#), April 17, 2024.

² [EXCLUSIVE: NCAA Responds To Sen. Marsha Blackburn, Refuses To Fully Protect Women's Sports | OutKick](#), September 11, 2024.