



**Testimony for Texas House Bill 229
April 25, 2025**

Dear Members of the House State Affairs Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 229.

Independent Women fights for women by expanding support for policy solutions that aren't just well intended, but actually enhance freedom, opportunities, and well-being. We are also the authors of the Stand with Women Act, which is the sex-definition and preservation of female spaces model legislation that has been implemented across the country and most recently used as the basis for the President's executive order to define sex-based words.

Bureaucrats and elitists on the state level are redefining language to fit a false narrative, all designed to erase that women exist as biologically distinct from men. As a result, women and girls across the country have been forced to sacrifice their opportunities, privacy, and safety.

HB 229 would stop this sort of interpretive overreach and judicial activism by preserving the legal existence of women, as distinct from men.

This bill does so in three ways. First, it clarifies the long-standing meaning of sex-based words like 'woman,' and 'female,' already used in 131 Texas state statutes. Second, it provides legal protection to defend women's single-sex spaces, such as locker rooms, rape crisis centers, dormitories, and prisons. Lastly, it protects the integrity of sex-based data collection.

HB 229 reflects recent action on the federal level that restores biological reality and protects sex-based rights by recognizing that there are only two sexes, male and female. Recent action on the federal level safeguarding women's rights is encouraging, but is not enough to ensure the rights of women and girls in Texas are upheld. The Texas Legislature must pass HB 229 to ensure these rights are fully safeguarded.

For questions, email states@iww.org.

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Similar legislation has received bipartisan support across the United States. Recent polling proves that Americans, including Texans, overwhelmingly agree that Texas has an important governmental interest in preventing sex discrimination and preserving single-sex spaces. But we cannot fight sex discrimination if we cannot define 'sex.'

Recent polling has shown that 86% of American Voters agree, women and men are legally equal, but they are not biologically the same. 91% of American Voters agree, when it comes to prisons there are important reasons to separate the sexes. 89% of American Voters agree, when it comes to locker rooms there are important reasons to separate the sexes.

In summary, HB 229 does an excellent job to define male and female terms and protect women's private spaces. It does not create any special rights for women nor does it take rights away from others. It simply safeguards women's existing legal right to have single-sex spaces to ensure privacy and safety. This bill is a sharp rebuke to the efforts to legally eradicate the difference between the sexes and fundamentally erase women by depriving them of their dignity, safety, and well-being. Men and women are biologically different and as such have a legal right to single-sex spaces.

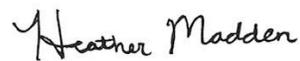
For these reasons, I urge you to support HB 229.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Beth Parlato
Senior Legal Advisor
Independent Women Law Center



Heather Madden
Austin, Texas
Policy Staff Director
Independent Women's Voice