



STATE OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

March 30, 2022

The Honorable Katie Hobbs  
Secretary of State  
1700 W. Washington, 7th Floor  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: Senate Bill 1138 irreversible gender reassignment surgery; minors & Senate Bill 1165 interscholastic; intramural athletics; biological sex

Dear Secretary Hobbs,

Today I signed S.B. 1138 and S.B. 1165, legislation to protect participation and fairness for female athletes, and to ensure that individuals undergoing irreversible gender reassignment surgery are of adult age. This legislation is common-sense and narrowly-targeted to address these two specific issues — while ensuring that transgender individuals continue to receive the same dignity, respect and kindness as every individual in our society.

S.B. 1138 delays any irreversible gender reassignment surgery until the age of 18. The reason is simple, and common sense — this is a decision that will dramatically affect the rest of an individual's life, including the ability of that individual to become a biological parent later in life.

Distinguishing between an adult and a child in law, as this bill does, is not unique. Throughout law, children are protected from making irreversible decisions, including buying certain products or participating in activities that can have lifelong health implications. These decisions should be made when an individual reaches adulthood. Further, many doctors who perform these procedures on adults agree it is not within the standards of care to perform these procedures on children.

The irreversible nature of these procedures underscores why such a decision should be made as an adult, not as a child, and further supports the importance of this legislation.

S.B. 1165 creates a statewide policy to ensure that biologically female athletes at Arizona public schools, colleges, and universities have a level playing field to compete. This bill does not deny student-athletes the eligibility to play on teams not designated as "female," and it doesn't impact club sports leagues offered outside of schools. Every young Arizona athlete should have the

opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities that give them a sense of belonging and allow them to grow and thrive.

This legislation simply ensures that the girls and young women who have dedicated themselves to their sport do not miss out on hard-earned opportunities including their titles, standings and scholarships due to unfair competition. This bill strikes the right balance of respecting all students while still acknowledging that there are inherent biological distinctions that merit separate categories to ensure fairness for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas A. Ducey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Douglas A. Ducey  
Governor  
State of Arizona

cc: The Honorable Karen Fann  
The Honorable Rusty Bowers  
The Honorable Warren Petersen  
The Honorable Nancy Barto