



Women's Declaration International

Testimony of Elizabeth Watson

Before the House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee

HF 700

March 3, 2025

SUPPORT

Thank you, members of the Committee, for allowing me to testify in support of HF 700. My name is Elizabeth Watson. I reside in Sherburne County, State of Minnesota.

Women's Declaration International (WDI) is a global, nonpartisan group of volunteer women dedicated to protecting women's sex-based rights. [Women's Declaration International USA](#), Inc. (WDI USA) is its U.S. chapter. WDI promotes the [Declaration on Women's Sex-Based Rights](#) (the Declaration), which has more than 39,000 signatures globally.

Our interest in this bill is based upon Article 1 of The Declaration, "Reaffirming that the rights of women are based upon the category of sex." "Sex" refers to reproductive biology, whereas the stereotyped sex roles of masculinity and femininity enforced on both sexes ("gender") are a fundamental aspect of women's inequality and must be eliminated.

The Declaration provides: "States should maintain the centrality of the category of sex, and not 'gender identity', in relation to women's and girls' right to be free from discrimination." It does this because women and girls face discrimination based on our biology as females, and we are unable to "identify" our way out of sex discrimination. The Declaration further provides that this centrality of biological sex "should include the retention in law, policies and practice of the category of woman to mean adult human female, the category of lesbian to mean an adult human female whose sexual orientation is towards other adult human females, and the category of mother to mean a female parent; and the exclusion of men who claim to have a female 'gender identity' from these categories."

There is, therefore, a conflict between "gender identity" and sex in policy. Sex is determined at conception and observed at or before birth; "gender identity" is nothing more than sex-role stereotypes. These regressive stereotypes are materially harmful to women and should not be codified in law.

WDI USA fully supports the protection of equal rights for all people who do not conform to sex-role stereotypes. We have proposed our own federal bill, called the ["Equality For All Act"](#) (EFAA). It provides comprehensive federal civil rights protection for women and girls on the basis of sex, for homosexuals of both sexes based on sexual orientation (which is based on sex), and for everyone on the basis of nonconformity with sex-role stereotypes. It does not provide any additional protection based on subjective feelings, which are unverifiable and not

subject to discrimination. It is the state of being female that requires protection from sex discrimination.

Because HF 700 would define sex in a way that is consistent with the Declaration, WDI USA supports this bill.

Elizabeth Watson

Signatory, Declaration of Women's Sex-Based Rights