



To: Interested Parties

From: Rod Edwards, Nebraska First PAC

Date: March 21, 2023

Re: REPORT and ANALYSIS: Large majorities of Nebraskans support the *Let Them Grow Act (LB 574)* and *Sports and Spaces Act (LB 575)*; “fairness” a compelling reason

Introduction and Overview

This week, the Unicameral is expected to debate the *Let them Grow Act*, which would “prohibit the performance of gender altering procedures for individuals under the age of 19...”, and the *Sports and Spaces Act*, which would “prohibit the participation of biological males in interscholastic K-12 athletics designated for biological females...”. This follows weeks of filibustering by critics¹ who have managed to capture national attention but not capture public opinion across Nebraska. Though Republicans in the Unicameral have a significant majority (32 seats), it takes 33 votes to overcome a filibuster.

A recent telephone survey of 501 Nebraska registered likely voters, conducted by Nebraska First PAC, shows that each of the legislative bills are supported by majorities of Nebraskans, and by more than a 2-to-1 margin overall. 6-in-10 (61%) support the *Let Them Grow Act* and 62% of Nebraskans support the *Sports and Spaces Act*. Notably, a majority of registered voters that call themselves “Unaffiliated,” both men and women, parents and grandparents, majorities of voters in each of the three U.S. congressional districts, and Republican voters all support the descriptions of the *Let Them Grow Act* and the *Sports and Spaces Act*.

Furthermore, when the names of the bills were removed, there was tri-partisan support and double-digit gains among the electorate. Nearly 8-in-10 (78%) think “it is appropriate to have children wait until they are adults before having irreversible, sex-change surgeries.” A full 58% of registered Democrats also agree.

Similarly, 77% of those surveyed think it is unfair to have biological males competing in female sports. This sentiment clocks in at 15% higher than when the related legislative language is tested. Notably, 54% of registered Democrats also agree with this statement about what is and is not fair.

Words in the bills like “ban” or “prohibit” can be off-putting to many, especially if they are fed a steady diet of negative or false information. With the temperature turned down, and the actual language presented, a majority of Nebraskans

¹ [State Democrat stands up to Republican fixation on anti-trans restrictions \(msnbc.com\)](https://www.msnbc.com/news/politics/governance/state-democrat-stands-up-to-republican-fixation-on-anti-trans-restrictions)

agree. Voters of all backgrounds and ideologies are even more likely, by double digits, to support the fairness framework of the bills.

Despite outsize attention to this debate, there is little indication that Nebraskans have all the information they need to help guide their elected officials to truly represent them. This survey provides insight to those elected officials as to what their constituents want. The onus is on lawmakers to inform the public about what these bills do and do not do and cut through the typical lazy spin and lies. One bill protects children, who are not yet of the age of consent, and protects the rights of parents to know and/or consent before drastic life-altering measures involving surgical tools or pharmaceuticals are taken against children. The other bill keeps intact rules that say males and females should play on sports teams and use bathrooms that correspond to gender, with accommodations for others to feel safe.

State Legislature Bills

Specific language tested from the *Sports and Spaces Act* and the *Let Them Grow Act* are supported by over 6-in-10 Nebraska voters. Over 7-in-10 parents and grandparents of children under 18 years old support the language in the *Sports and Spaces Act*. While 65% of parents and 70% of grandparents support the language in the *Let Them Grow Act*. Each bill’s description receives majority support from each congressional district, men and women, Republicans, and “Unaffiliated” voters.

<i>I am now going to read you descriptions of two bills being debated in the Nebraska state legislature. For each, please tell me if you support or oppose the bill.</i>			
	<u>Total Support</u>	<u>Total Oppose</u>	<u>Unsure/Depends</u>
<i>The Sports and Spaces Act, would prohibit biological males from using restroom or locker room facilities designated for biological females.</i>	63%	28%	8%
<i>The Sports and Spaces Act, would prohibit the participation of biological males in K-12 athletics designated for biological females.</i>	62%	29%	7%
<i>The Let Them Grow Act would prohibit the use of gender altering procedures like surgeries, puberty blockers, or hormone therapies for individuals under the age of 19</i>	61%	32%	6%

Notable demographics that support (63%): *The Sports and Space Act, would prohibit biological males from using restroom or locker room facilities designated for biological females.*

- Republicans (76%), Rural (73%), Parents (71%), Grandparents (71%), CD-3 (70%), Unaffiliated voters (66%), Men (64%), Women (62%), CD-2 (61%), Suburban (60%), CD-1 (58%), Urban (54%).

Notable demographics that support (62%): *The Sports and Spaces Act, would prohibit the participation of biological males in K-12 athletics designated for biological females.*

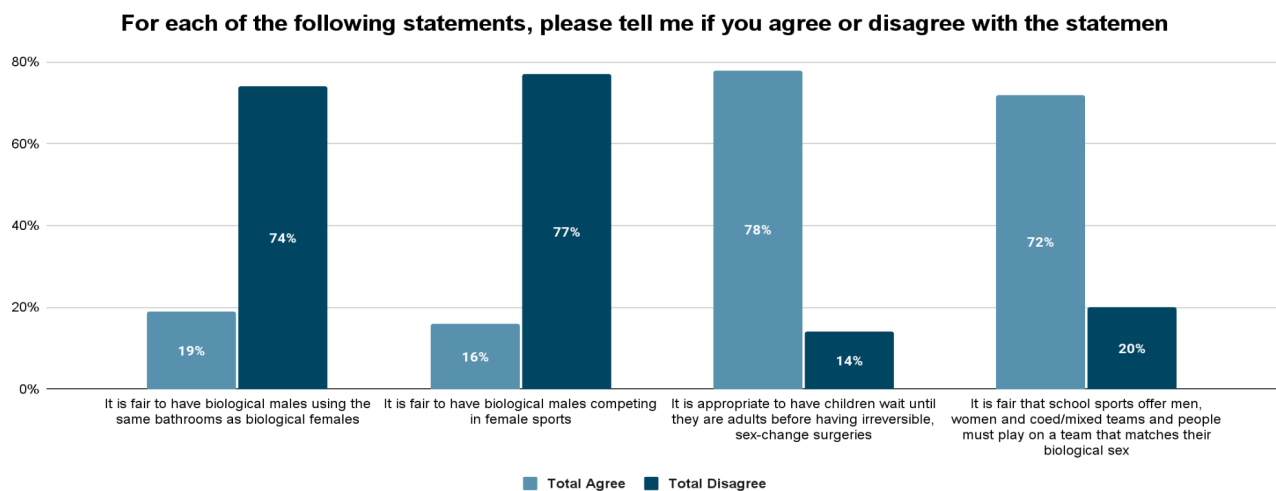
- Republicans (75%), Parents (71%), Grandparents (70%), Rural (70%), CD-3 (66%), Women 50+ (66%), Unaffiliated voters (63%), Suburban (61%), CD-1 (60%), CD-2 (60%), Women under age 49 (59%), Urban (54%).

Notable demographics that support (61%): *The Let Them Grow Act would prohibit the use of gender altering procedures like surgeries, puberty blockers, or hormone therapies for individuals under the age of 19*

- Republicans (76%), Grandparents (70%), Rural (69%), CD-3 (66%), Parents (65%), Men under age 49 (63%), Men (62%), Women (60%), CD-2 (60%), Unaffiliated voters (59%), Suburban (58%), CD-1 (56%), Urban (55%), Women under age 49 (54%).

Fairness

“Fairness” is a simple yet powerful sentiment to Nebraskans in context of the legislation under consideration. While 61% support the description of the *Let Them Grow Act* in the previous series, 78% agree with the statement when asked if “it is appropriate for children to wait until they are adults before having irreversible, sex-change surgeries.” Similarly, in the previous question, 62% support the description of the *Sports and Spaces Act*, but 77% disagree with the statement that says “it is fair to have biological males competing in female sports.”



Notable demographics that agree (78%): *It is appropriate to have children wait until they are adults before having irreversible sex change surgeries.*

- Republicans (88%), Rural (87%), Parents (84%), CD-3 (83%), Grandparents (82%), Unaffiliated voters (81%), Suburban (77%), CD-2 (77%), Women (77%), CD-1 (76%), Women under age 49 (73%), Urban (72%), Democrats (58%).
- **A majority (53%) who oppose the *Let Them Grow Act* language in the previous series, also agree with this statement.**

Notable demographics that disagree (77%): *It is fair to have biological males competing in female sports.*

- Republicans (90%), Grandparents (86%), Rural (83%), CD-3 (83%), Parents (82%), Men (80%), Suburban (77%), Unaffiliated voters (76%), Women (74%), CD-2 (74%), CD-1 (73%), Urban (72%), Women under age 49 (70%), Democrats (54%).
- **A majority (54%) who oppose the *Sports and Spaces Act's* language in the previous series, also disagree with this statement.**

Notable demographics that disagree (74%): *It is fair to have biological males using the same bathrooms as biological females.*

- Republicans (89%), Grandparents (89%), CD-3 (85%), Rural (84%), Parents (79%), Men (76%), Suburban (74%), Women (72%), CD-1 (71%), Unaffiliated voters (69%), CD-2 (65%), Urban (63%), Democrats (50%).
- Nearly half (49%) of those who oppose the *Sports and Spaces Act* language in the previous series, also disagree with this statement.

Notable demographics that agree (72%): *It is fair that school sports offer men, women and coed/mixed teams and people must play on a team that matches their biological sex.*

- Republicans (87%), CD-3 (80%), Parents (80%), Grandparents (80%), Rural (80%), Women (73%), Men (72%), Suburban (71%), CD-1 (71%), Women under age 49 (71%), Unaffiliated voters (70%), Urban (66%), CD-2 (66%), Democrats (47%).

SURVEY METHODOLOGY:

Nebraska First PAC recently conducted a telephone survey of 501 likely voters in Nebraska. This quantitative research was conducted between March 17th-18th, 2023 at a Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) facility (70% mobile phones, 30% landlines). Sampling controls were used to ensure that a proportional and representative number of voters were interviewed from such demographic groups as age, gender, race, and geographic region. The margin of error is $\pm 4.4\%$ at the 95% confidence interval for overall survey, M.O.E.s for subgroups are larger.

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