

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 2025

USA Fencing
4065 Sinton Road, Suite 140
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Dear Members of the USA Fencing Leadership,

On behalf of the Republican Women's Caucus, we write to express our unwavering support for Stephanie Turner, a courageous female fencer who, at the Cherry Blossom Open in Maryland, made the principled decision to forfeit her match rather than compete against a biological male opponent in a women's fencing tournament. Her peaceful protest—removing her mask and taking a knee—was met with a black card, the most severe penalty available under USA Fencing rules, resulting in her immediate disqualification.

Ms. Turner's stand reflects the deep concerns of countless women and girls across America who seek fairness, safety, and integrity in women's sports—values that we, as a caucus, are committed to upholding. The Republican Women's Caucus was founded to amplify the voices of Republican women in Congress, champion legislative priorities that enhance the quality of life for all Americans, and ensure women and girls have equal opportunities to thrive. Preserving fair competition in women's athletics is a critical matter that directly impacts the dignity and opportunities of female athletes.

We strongly believe that women should not be penalized for advocating for fair competition and integrity in sports. While inclusivity is important, it should never come at the expense of fairness and safety for female athletes. Biological differences between males and females have long been recognized, and allowing biological males to compete in women's categories undermines the very purpose of women's sports—to provide a level playing field where female athletes can excel based on their merits.

We urge USA Fencing to reconsider the disciplinary actions against Ms. Turner and to critically review its transgender athlete policy, implemented in 2023. This policy permits athletes who have undergone one year of testosterone suppression to compete in women's events, despite well-documented physical advantages that persist even after hormone suppression. Women athletes should not be forced into choosing between unfair competition or forfeiting their right to participate.

The Republican Women's Caucus remains dedicated to supporting policies that empower women and girls, protecting their opportunities, and honoring their contributions in athletics and beyond. We respectfully request that USA Fencing engage in meaningful dialogue with female athletes, listen to their concerns, and revise policies to ensure fairness remains at the heart of women's competitions.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this critical matter. We look forward to your response and hope to see USA Fencing address this issue with the seriousness it deserves.

Sincerely,



Kat Cammack
Member of Congress



Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress



Jen A. Kiggans
Member of Congress



Mariannette J. Miller-Meeks, M.D.
Member of Congress



Young Kim
Member of Congress



Marjorie Taylor Greene
Member of Congress



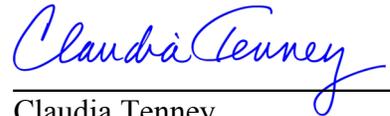
Sheri Biggs
Member of Congress



Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis
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Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



Celeste Maloy
Member of Congress