When considering women’s sports, it is not only gender but self identification and fairness which must be included in the discussion. To include trans persons in women’s sports will eliminate any opportunity for female athletes to participate in sports. Trans persons have male bodies. Male bodies are overwhelmingly taller and stronger. Males have larger muscles. Males have more lung capacity. The arms and legs of males are longer. This creates a situation where trans persons (male bodied persons) have an extremely unfair advantage. Self-identification of gender is another huge problem for female athletes. In Boston, I believe (you must be aware) a couple of years ago, two male high school athletes lost a race where college scouts were to award scholarships. Two weeks later, they entered a women’s race by claiming they were trans, and won over all the girls. I did not see a follow-up story, but I assume the two boys were awarded the scholarships for women. Neither allowing sincere trans persons, or males who are taking advantage, to participate in female sports is fair to female athletes. It will erase/obliterate any opportunity for female athletes to win in any amateur or professional sports. This effects the livelihood of many women, and the chances for large populations of young females to get an education will be taken away forever. I believe in the rights of transgender persons, and all persons in general, except when it nullifies the rights of others. Including trans persons, and self identified persons in female sports will certainly nullify the rights of women in this area. We must also consider trans persons who have transitioned to men. Where is the fairness to them? Surely not only trans persons who have transitioned to women are entitled to our thoughts? They also would have to compete in an inappropriate category if gender only is to count. When it comes to sports, categories should be changed from those that identify gender (Men’s, Women’s) to those that identify sex (Male and Female). Only in this way can we provide opportunities to every person. This should begin at the very first level of sports for toddlers, and go through every level of sports up to professionals. If you have to name the categories "Larger Bodied" and "Smaller Bodied" and have a height, weight, muscle, and lung capacity measurement before placing each athlete in that category, as an alternative, please do. Something like that will sort athletes with fairness. Females deserve to be treated with equality. We have worked for two hundred years to obtain it. Thank you for including this letter in your discussions and decisions.
Jan Jennings
(b)(6)