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## PRESS RELEASE

### **ICONS Supports Texas Attorney General in Upcoming Court Hearing Over NCAA Transgender Eligibility Policy**

*Female Athlete Plaintiffs Suing NCAA and Mountain West Conference Set to Testify*

**LUBBOCK, TX** – The Independent Council on Women’s Sports ([ICONS](#)) announces that several plaintiffs from its supported lawsuits against the NCAA and the Mountain West Conference will testify at a court hearing on **Tuesday, March 18, 2025**, at 1:30 pm CDT. The hearing will take place in **Lubbock County District Court, 904 Broadway Street, Lubbock, Texas**. Testifying plaintiffs include **Brooke Slusser** (co-captain, San Jose State University women’s volleyball team), **Kylee Alons** (31-time NCAA All-American swimmer, North Carolina State University), and **Kaitlynn Wheeler** (All-American swimmer, University of Kentucky). **Kim Slusser**, Brooke Slusser’s mother, has also been called to testify.

The hearing is in the case of *Texas v. NCAA* (Cause No. DC-2024-CV-1835), filed by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton to challenge the NCAA’s failure to prevent men from competing on college women’s sports teams. Recently, an executive order from President Trump intending to keep men out of women’s sports, prompted the NCAA to revise its transgender participation policy.

Texas [argues](#) that the NCAA’s new policy “stands in stark contrast to... President [Trump’s] Executive Order [and] does not, in fact, keep men out of women’s sports.” Attorney General Paxton has called the updated policy “an illusion of change designed to trick consumers into re-engaging with the NCAA.” Accordingly, the Texas Attorney General is seeking a temporary injunction to compel the NCAA to implement a simple, non-invasive spit screen or cheek swab to confirm the sex of student-athletes who want to compete on women’s teams.

Contrary to improving fairness, ICONS states the new NCAA policy is even more permissive than before. Previously, men could compete in women’s sports if they suppressed their testosterone levels. The updated rules eliminate even this requirement, permitting men to compete on women’s college teams by obtaining a birth certificate not marked ‘male’, which can be easily accomplished through a straightforward application process in forty-four states and

many countries around the world. The NCAA has also removed itself from eligibility monitoring, leaving schools to accept easily changeable “birth records” as the sole criterion for women’s team participation.

Athletes like **Minna Svärd**, a former East Texas A&M Commerce hurdler, highlight the real-world impact. In 2019, she became the first known woman to be denied an NCAA national title by a male athlete, Cece Telfer, who was declared the champion. “I lost not just a trophy but trust in the NCAA, which discarded my rights and continues to do so to others,” Svärd said. “I’m thankful Attorney General Paxton and the brave female athletes suing the NCAA are fighting back.”

**Brooke Slusser**, a Texas native and plaintiff in two lawsuits, described her recent experience: “My San Jose State team was deceived into believing we were on a women’s team, only to learn a man had been recruited to play with us.” Fellow plaintiff **Sierra Grizzle** added, “This hearing hits close to home. After a traumatic season facing a male opponent in the Mountain West Conference, I’m grateful to have transferred to Texas Tech, where I live in a state whose Attorney General is working to ensure I’ll never have to go through those trials again.”

ICONS supports its courageous plaintiffs and Attorney General Paxton in challenging the NCAA’s deceptive and harmful practices, which violate state and federal laws and harm female student-athletes by permitting male participation on women’s teams. ICONS co-founder **Kim Jones** stated, “The NCAA is blatantly disregarding federal law and President Trump’s Executive Order while it continues to fail to protect female athletes. The NCAA knows it has betrayed female athletes as well as the public. The only question now is, how long will it take for the NCAA to apologize, take accountability, and right the wrongs it created?”

ICONS is a non-partisan, non-profit network of female athletes and their supporters committed to ensuring fair and safe competition in women’s sports.

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