## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Rep. Rodriguez Votes to Protect Women in Sports**

**MADISON** – Rep. Jessie Rodriguez (R-Oak Creek) voted today for two proposals to protect women in sports.

"Protecting women in sports is wildly popular," began Rodriguez. "Earlier this year, Marquette University Law Poll <u>released data from a poll</u> reporting that 71% of respondents said athletes *should* be required to participate on teams that match the sex they were assigned at birth."

Assembly Bill 377 (<u>AB 377</u>) would require public schools, independent charter schools, and private schools participating in a parental choice program that operate or sponsor athletic teams and sports to designate teams as one of three categories: female, male, or coed for the participating pupils. Assembly Bill 378 (<u>AB 378</u>) would also require technical colleges and the University of Wisconsin to designate teams based on one of the three categories.

"Allowing biological males to participate in women's sports defeats the very purpose of the landmark Title IX protection, which requires schools at all levels to provide equal opportunity in their athletic programs. Female athletes do not have a fair shot against males, who are biologically bigger, stronger, and faster than females. Offering these protections is critical to ensuring Wisconsin women are able to compete," concluded Rep. Rodriguez.

Both bills passed on the Assembly Floor. They will now go to the State Senate for consideration.

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