MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE

By: Senator(s) Hill

REGULAR SESSION 2024

To: Judiciary, Division A; Education

## SENATE BILL NO. 2814

1 AN ACT TO ENACT THE TITLE IX PRESERVATION ACT; TO PROVIDE 2 INTERPRETATION AND CLARIFICATION OF CERTAIN TERMS RELATING TO 3 TITLE IX OF THE FEDERAL CODE; TO STATE LEGISLATIVE INTENT; TO 4 CLARIFY TERMS FOR THE PURPOSES OF STATE LAW; TO PROVIDE THAT 5 POLICIES AND LAWS THAT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE SEXES ARE SUBJECT 6 TO INTERMEDIATE CONSTITUTIONAL SCRUTINY; TO REQUIRE THE STATE OR A 7 LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY TO DISAGGREGATE THE DATA OF INDIVIDUALS BY SEX BASED ON THE BIOLOGICAL SEX OF INDIVIDUALS AT BIRTH WHEN 8 9 THE STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY GATHERS THE DATA OF 10 INDIVIDUALS THAT IS DISAGGREGATED BY SEX; AND FOR RELATED 11 PURPOSES.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

13 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and may be cited as "The

14 Title IX Preservation Act."

15 **SECTION 2.** The Legislature finds and declares that:

16

(a) Males and females possess unique and immutable

17 biological differences that manifest prior to birth and increase

18 with age and puberty;

19 (b) Biological differences between the sexes mean that

20 only females can get pregnant, give birth and breastfeed children;

S. B. No. 2814 24/SS36/R259.1 PAGE 1 (ens\kr) (c) Biological differences between the sexes mean that males are, on average, larger in size and possess greater body strength than females;

24 (d) Whereas biological differences between the sexes
25 can expose females to greater harm than males from specific forms
26 of violence, including sexual violence;

(e) Females have historically suffered fromdiscrimination in education, athletics and employment;

(f) Females have achieved inspirational and significantaccomplishments in education, athletics and employment;

Biological differences between the sexes are enduring and may, in some circumstances, warrant the creation of separate social, educational, athletic or other spaces in order to ensure safety and/or to allow members of each sex to succeed and thrive;

35 (g) When it comes to sex, "equal" does not mean "same" 36 or "identical"; and

37 (h) Recent misguided court rulings and policy 38 initiatives relating to the definition of "sex" have led to the 39 endangerment of single-sex spaces and resources dedicated to 40 women, thereby necessitating clarification of certain terms.

41 <u>SECTION 3.</u> For the purposes of State law:
42 (a) The "sex" of an individual means his or her
43 biological sex (either male or female) at birth.

44 (b) The terms "woman" and "girl" refer to human45 females.

S. B. No. 2814 **~ OFFICIAL ~** 24/SS36/R259.1 PAGE 2 (ens\kr) 46 (c) The terms "man" and "boy" refer to human males.
47 (d) The word "mother" refers to a parent of the female
48 sex.

49 (e) The word "father" refers to a parent of the male50 sex.

51 <u>SECTION 4.</u> (1) There are important reasons to distinguish 52 between the sexes with respect to athletics, prisons, domestic 53 violence shelters, restrooms, and with respect to other areas, 54 particularly where biology, safety and privacy are implicated.

55 (2) Policies and laws that distinguish between the sexes are 56 subject to intermediate constitutional scrutiny and permitted when 57 they serve an important governmental objective and are 58 substantially related to achieving that objective.

59 <u>SECTION 5.</u> When the state or a local governmental entity 60 gathers data of individuals that is disaggregated by sex, the 61 state or local governmental entity shall disaggregate the data of 62 individuals by sex based on the biological sex of individuals at 63 birth.

64 <u>SECTION 6.</u> Any person who suffers any direct or indirect 65 harm as a result of a violation of this act shall have a private 66 cause of action for injunctive relief, damages and any other 67 relief available under law against the state or its political 68 subdivision causing the harm.

69 SECTION 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from 70 and after July 1, 2024.

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