



New Zealand House of Representatives
Te Whare Māngai o Aotearoa

Petitions Committee
Komiti Whiriwhiri Take Petihana

54th Parliament
July 2025

**Petition of Speak Up for Women: Define that
“sex” in the Human Rights Act 1993 has the
biological meaning**

The Petitions Committee has considered the petition of Speak Up for Women, which was presented on 25 March 2025 by Tanya Unkovich. The petition was signed by 2,244 people, and requests:

That the House of Representatives defines that “sex” in the Human Rights Act 1993 and any other legislation has the biological meaning.

Speak Up for Women provided a written submission outlining its concerns. Chief among these is protection of female-only services, facilities, and opportunities. It is particularly concerned that trans women not be permitted to use services designated for women. It discussed key legislation and recent rulings on the subject. Speak Up for Women expressed its support for a proposed member’s bill, the Legislation (Definitions of Woman and Man) Amendment Bill, which entered the ballot in April 2025.

We recently referred a similar petition to a Minister for a response. The petition of Bob McCoskrie on behalf of Family First asked that “woman” be defined as an “adult human female” in all laws, public policies, and legislation. We would recommend that the petitioner read the Minister’s response we received in May 2025. Of particular note is the Law Commission review report which is due in mid-2025.¹ We thank the petitioner for raising this matter for our consideration.

We have no further matters to bring to the attention of the House. We recommend that the House take note of our report.

¹ The Minister’s response can be read on [the Parliament website](#).

Presented to the House of Representatives
by Greg Fleming, Deputy Chairperson