

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SENATE



*Victoria Merchan*

*Carlos Magdaniel*

*Table of contents;*

**I. Letter from the chair**

1.2. President Merchan

**II. Introduction to the Senate**

2.1. What is the United States Senate?

2.2. History

2.3. Structure

2.4. Movements and achievements

**III. Topic A: Addressing the possibility to approve legislation making Puerto Rico the 51st state**

3.1 Introduction of the topic

3.2. Historical Background

3.3. Current situation

3.4. Political division

3.5. Background information

3.6. Guiding Questions

3.7. Glossary of terms

3.8. Bibliographic references

**IV. Topic B: Restricting Transgender Women from Competing in Women's Sports**

4.1 Introduction of the topic

4.2. Historical Background

4.3. Current situation

4.4. Political division

4.5. Background information

3.6. Guiding Questions

3.7. Glossary of terms

3.8. Bibliographic references

## **V. Expectations From the Chair**

## **VI. Recommendations From the Chair**

### **I. Letter from the chair**

#### 1.1. President Merchan

*“Don't mistake politeness for lack of strength.” — Sonia Sotomayor*

Dear Senators,

Greetings to the U.S. Senate. My name is Victoria Merchan and along with my co-president we are prepared and delighted to preside over the committee where we know we'll see talent, dominance and assertance. Mun's have been a part of me since 4th grade, and to be able to be a guide to other people starting on this exhilarating journey makes me certain that all hard work is rewarded.

In this eighth edition of ASMUN we will be presiding over The United States Senate, which is the key congress to decide over The United States' actions and create the bills that structure the country. I will give my best efforts to honor the Senate and replicate it to the best of my abilities.

Furthermore, I'd like for all delegates to speak their minds, jump over the line of possibilities, and contribute to our future. It's the actions today that will exert influence on the comings of tomorrow. With gratitude, I'm fully confident the committee awaits nothing short of greatness and ideas beyond our world. We hope you will enjoy this experience as much as we will.

Remember, if you have any doubt or question, do not hesitate to contact us via Whatsapp or Email.

[victoria.merchan@americanschool.edu.co](mailto:victoria.merchan@americanschool.edu.co)

+ 302 314 2748

[cmagdaniel@colegiohebreounion.edu.co](mailto:cmagdaniel@colegiohebreounion.edu.co)

+ 310 330 4127



## II. Introduction to the Senate

### *The United States Senate: Pillar of American Democracy*

In the intricate framework of American governance, the United States Senate stands as a venerable institution, embodying the principles of deliberation, representation, and checks and balances. Established as one of the two chambers of the United States Congress by the framers of the Constitution, the Senate plays a crucial role in shaping legislation, providing oversight, and safeguarding the interests of the diverse American populace. With its unique composition, powers, and traditions, the Senate remains a cornerstone of American democracy.

The roots of the United States Senate trace back to the Constitutional Convention of 1787, drawing inspiration from historical models like the Roman Senate and the British Parliament, the framers envisioned the Senate as a chamber of wisdom and stability, where statesmanship would prevail over the transient passions of the moment. With each state, regardless of size or population, granted equal representation through two senators, the Senate emerged as a bulwark against the tyranny of the majority and a forum for regional interests to be heard.

The primary function of the Senate is to enact legislation that addresses the needs and aspirations of the American people. Unlike the House of Representatives, where representation is proportional to population, the Senate offers smaller states a platform to assert their interests on par with larger ones. This aspect of the Senate reflects the framers'

commitment to federalism and ensures that states with diverse demographics and economies have a voice in the legislative process. Moreover, the Senate serves as a deliberative body, where issues are thoroughly examined, debated, and refined. Through committee hearings, markups, and floor debates, senators engage in a rigorous exchange of ideas, seeking consensus and compromise in the pursuit of the common good. The Senate's rules and procedures, including the filibuster and cloture, contribute to its deliberative nature, allowing minority viewpoints to be heard while ensuring the orderly conduct of business.

Furthermore, the Senate exercises its constitutional authority in confirming presidential appointments, including Supreme Court justices, cabinet members, and ambassadors. By subjecting nominees to rigorous scrutiny and confirmation hearings, the Senate upholds the principle of advice and consent, safeguarding the independence and integrity of key institutions within the government.

Central to the identity of the Senate are its rich traditions and institutional norms, which transcend partisan divides and foster a sense of collegiality and respect among members. From the tradition of unanimous consent to the practice of extending courtesies across the aisle, the Senate prides itself on maintaining a spirit of civility and cooperation, even in the face of ideological differences. Despite its storied history and enduring legacy, the Senate faces numerous challenges in the modern era. Partisanship, polarization, and gridlock have strained the Senate's ability to function effectively, impeding legislative progress and eroding public trust in democratic institutions. Moreover, questions regarding the filibuster, Senate reform, and the role of money in politics continue to fuel debates about the Senate's future trajectory.

Yet, amidst these challenges lie opportunities for renewal and reform. By embracing bipartisanship, fostering greater transparency, and promoting a culture of civility and

compromise, the Senate can reclaim its role as a bulwark of American democracy. Through visionary leadership and a commitment to the common good, the Senate can rise above partisan rancor and reaffirm its status as the world's greatest deliberative body.

From its origins in the Constitutional Convention to its contemporary role in shaping national policy, the Senate remains a vital institution, entrusted with the solemn duty of advancing the welfare of the American people. As challenges mount and opportunities arise, the Senate must reaffirm its commitment to the principles of bipartisanship, cooperation, and integrity, ensuring that it continues to serve as a beacon of democracy for generations to come.

## 2.2. History

The history of the United States Senate is intertwined with the broader narrative of American democracy, spanning over two centuries of legislative evolution, political upheavals, and social transformations. From its inception as a deliberative body designed to represent the interests of the states to its present role as a pivotal institution in the federal government, the Senate has played a crucial role in shaping the course of American history.

The United States Senate traces its origins to the Constitutional Convention of 1787, where the framers grappled with the challenge of devising a system of governance that balanced federal authority with states' rights. Drawing inspiration from classical models such as the Roman Senate and the British Parliament, the framers established the Senate as the upper chamber of Congress, with each state represented by two senators, regardless of population size. The framers envisioned the Senate as a forum for deliberation and

statesmanship, where the interests of the states would be safeguarded against the potential tyranny of the majority. Through a series of compromises, including the Great Compromise, which resolved the issue of representation between large and small states, the framers laid the groundwork for a bicameral legislature that would serve as a check on executive and popular power.

The Senate played a central role in the process of Reconstruction, as lawmakers sought to rebuild the South and extend civil rights to newly emancipated African Americans. The passage of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments, which granted equal protection under the law and voting rights to African American men, represented landmark achievements in the struggle for civil rights.

During the Cold War era, the Senate emerged as a key battleground in the struggle between communism and democracy, as lawmakers debated issues such as containment, arms control, and civil liberties. The Senate's role in ratifying treaties, confirming presidential appointments, and conducting oversight of the executive branch assumed heightened significance in an era of geopolitical uncertainty and ideological conflict.

In the contemporary era, the United States Senate confronts a host of challenges, including partisan polarization, legislative gridlock, and the erosion of institutional norms. The rise of hyper-partisanship and the proliferation of filibusters have hindered the Senate's ability to enact meaningful legislation, exacerbating public disillusionment with the political process.

Despite these challenges, the Senate remains a vital institution in American democracy, with lawmakers continuing to grapple with pressing issues such as healthcare reform, immigration, and climate change. As the nation enters a new era marked by rapid technological change and evolving global dynamics, the Senate must reaffirm its commitment to the principles of bipartisanship, compromise, and democratic governance, ensuring that it remains a beacon of democracy for future generations.

### 2.3. Structure

The structure of the United States Senate is defined by its constitutional framework, institutional rules, and organizational hierarchy. As one of the two chambers of Congress, the Senate operates within a bicameral system alongside the House of Representatives. The senate is divided into key elements:

***Composition:*** The Senate is composed of 100 senators, with each state represented by two senators, regardless of population size. Senators are elected to staggered six-year terms, with approximately one-third of the Senate facing reelection every two years.

***Leadership:*** At the head of the Senate is the Vice President of the United States, who serves as the President of the Senate but can only cast a vote in the event of a tie. In the absence of the Vice President, the Senate is presided over by the President pro tempore, a senator elected by their colleagues to fulfill this ceremonial role. The day-to-day operations

of the Senate are managed by the Senate Majority Leader and the Senate Minority Leader, who are elected by their respective party caucuses.

***Committees:*** The Senate operates through a system of committees, which play a crucial role in shaping legislation, conducting oversight, and deliberating on policy issues. There are standing committees, such as the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Senate Finance Committee, which have jurisdiction over specific areas of policy, as well as special and select committees established to address temporary or emerging issues. Senators are appointed to committees based on their expertise and interests, and committee assignments are made by party leadership.

***Legislative Process:*** The legislative process in the Senate follows a series of steps, including the introduction of bills and resolutions, committee consideration, floor debate, and voting. Unlike the House of Representatives, where debate is often more structured and time-limited, the Senate allows for more extensive deliberation through mechanisms such as the filibuster and unanimous consent agreements. To pass legislation, a bill must receive a majority vote of the senators present and voting, unless a different threshold is specified by Senate rules.

***Rules and Procedures:*** The Senate operates under a set of rules and procedures, known as the Standing Rules of the Senate, which govern its operations and conduct. These rules cover various aspects of Senate proceedings, including debate, voting, and the amendment process. The Senate also has its own traditions and customs, such as the cloture rule, which allows senators to end a filibuster by invoking a procedural vote.

## 2.4. Movements and achievements

Throughout its history, the United States Senate has been the stage for numerous movements and achievements that have shaped the course of American democracy. From landmark legislation to social movements, the Senate has played a role in advancing the nation's ideals and addressing pressing challenges. Here are some key movements and achievements of the United States Senate:

***Civil Rights Movement:*** The Senate played a crucial role in advancing civil rights legislation, culminating in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. These laws, which aimed to end segregation and protect voting rights for African Americans, were the result of years of activism and legislative efforts led by civil rights leaders and senators alike.

***Women's Suffrage:*** The Senate played a pivotal role in the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which granted women the right to vote. After decades of advocacy by suffragists, the Senate finally passed the amendment in 1919, paving the way for its ratification by the states the following year.

***New Deal Legislation:*** During the Great Depression, the Senate played a key role in passing President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal legislation, which aimed to provide relief, recovery, and reform to the American people. Measures such as the Social Security Act, the National Labor Relations Act, and the Works Progress Administration were all enacted with the support of the Senate.

***Civil Rights Act of 1957:*** This landmark legislation was the first civil rights law passed by Congress since Reconstruction. It aimed to protect the voting rights of African Americans and establish a civil rights commission to investigate discriminatory practices. While it was a modest step compared to later civil rights legislation, it marked an important milestone in the struggle for racial equality.

***Environmental Protection:*** The Senate has been instrumental in passing major environmental legislation, including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act. These laws have helped to protect public health, preserve natural resources, and mitigate the impacts of pollution and habitat loss.

***Foreign Policy and Diplomacy:*** The Senate plays a crucial role in shaping American foreign policy and diplomacy through its oversight of treaties and confirmation of ambassadors and other diplomatic officials. Key moments in Senate foreign policy history include the Senate's rejection of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 and its approval of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1949.

***Healthcare Reform:*** The Senate has been at the center of debates over healthcare reform, including the passage of Medicare and Medicaid in the 1960s and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2010. These laws have expanded access to healthcare for millions of Americans and reshaped the nation's healthcare system.

***Impeachment Proceedings:*** The Senate has the sole power to try impeachments, making it responsible for conducting impeachment trials of federal officials, including the President. Notable impeachment proceedings in Senate history include those against Presidents Andrew Johnson, Bill Clinton, and Donald Trump.



## **VII. Topic A: Addressing the possibility to approve legislation making Puerto Rico the 51st state**

### 3.1 Introduction of the topic

Puerto Rico is a political paradox: part of the United States but distinct from it, enjoying citizenship but lacking full political representation, and infused with its own brand of nationalism despite not being a sovereign state. More than a century after being acquired by the United States from Spain, the island continues to grapple with its status as a U.S. territory and the legacy of colonialism in the Caribbean.



The debate over Puerto Rico's statehood remains as relevant as ever, as the island struggles with the combined effects of economic depression, shrinking population, debt crisis and bankruptcy, natural disasters, and government mismanagement. A

major deal to restructure debt has put the island on a path to economic recovery, while supporters of statehood have pressed for a binding referendum on the island's status.

Recently a number of issues have affected the commonwealth of Puerto Rico. There have been a number of natural disasters, including Hurricane Maria in 2017, that created great

losses and caused a humanitarian crisis followed up by a number of other natural disasters. From 2004 to 2020, the economic growth rate decreased by almost 12.5%; the population of the island decreased by more than 16%; and public debt amounted to approximately \$70 billion. Despite having an economical crisis, authorities on the island don't have sovereignty on the economical status and the management brought by Washington D.C. certainly isn't enough.

### 3.2. Historical Background

In 1508, the Spanish conquistador Juan Ponce de Leon landed on the island and founded the city of Caparra, the first European settlement. A year later, having subjugated the majority of the indigenous population, he proclaimed himself the first governor of Puerto Rico. The very name Puerto Rico means "rich port" in Spanish. At first, this was the name of the administrative center of the colony, but gradually the name was assigned to the entire territory. In 1509, the city of San Juan was founded, which became the capital largely due to its favorable geographical position.



As a result of the Spanish–American War, the United States of America gained new territories, including Puerto Rico. The island has a number of features. First, its area is 9104 sq. km, making it the third largest island in the United States after Hawaii and Kodiak, as well as the largest of the 16 American territories. Second, Puerto Rico is relatively close to the mainland. Third, more than 3 million people live in Puerto Rico, making it the most densely populated territory in the United States. The Jones–Shafroth Act was signed in 1917, granting US citizenship to Puerto Ricans. This, along with the fact that many have relatives living on the mainland and the relatively close location of the island, made it more and more likely for people to move.

Puerto Rico's economy boomed in the postwar period, with per capita income jumping by more than 500 percent between 1950 and 1971. An economic development plan launched in the mid-1940s known as Operation Bootstrap transformed the largely agrarian island into a manufacturing magnet, relying on federal tax exemptions, low labor costs, and other incentives to draw American companies to the territory.

### 3.3. Current situation

Supreme power belongs to the US Congress. The island has its own system of self-government, with three branches of government. Puerto Rico also has its own



constitution, while the powers of the US Constitution are limited on the island. Since January 3, 2017, the position of Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico in the US Congress has been held by Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon, a representative of the New Progressive Party (NPP) of Puerto Rico, which actively advocates joining the United States as a state. She is Puerto Rico's only representative in Congress. Jennifer

Gonzalez-Colon not only became the first woman to hold the office, but she received more votes than any other candidate elected to the position. As of January 2, 2021, the governorship of Puerto Rico is held by Pedro Pierluisi, who was Puerto Rico's representative in the US Congress from 2009 to 2017.

The last referendum happened in November of 2024. Puerto Ricans on the U.S. territory headed to the polls and voted in favor of becoming a state. While Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens, they cannot vote for president, but did voice their opinions on the future of the Commonwealth's political status. Once again, they have voted in favor of becoming a state, this time with 57 percent in favor.

There are also multiple issues that concern this territory. Firstly, The Federal government governs Puerto Rico, even though it has allowed self-government on local matters. The Supreme Court has said that Puerto Rico does not have the "power, dignity and authority" of a state. It does not have votes in Congress or in the election of the President. One House of Representatives member with a limited vote represents all three million plus

U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico. It is also treated differently than the states and is discriminated against in federal funding allocations. Federal officials have said Puerto Rico should have the status its people want from among all legally possible options. It is said to have three main options in constitution: statehood, independence, or its current territorial status; however, with the previous mentioned situations, its current territorial status isn't favorable for Puerto Ricans.



Four referendums have occurred in this century such as the one in 2012, 2017, 2020 and 2024. This means that more than half Puerto Ricans voted for statehood above all other options. Nevertheless, it's important to take into account the 5 possible options Puerto Rico could have moving forward:

- ***Status quo:*** some believe that the relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States should remain as is. The centrist Popular Democratic Party (PPD) has achieved to make this happen so far.
- ***Enhanced Commonwealth:*** some PPD members advocate what they call an enhanced version of Puerto Rico's current commonwealth status. This could include allowing the island to conduct its own foreign policy and exempting it from federal law.

However, U.S. officials including a presidential task force and the Justice Department have repeatedly dismissed this option.

- ***Statehood:*** proponents of statehood, including the island's other major party, the New Progressive Party (NPP), say it would finally make Puerto Ricans full citizens. Additionally, the island could receive up to \$12.5 billion more in federal benefits, including Medicare and Medicaid, according to some estimates. Giving Puerto Rico senators and full representatives could shift the country's balance of power.
- ***Independence:*** Puerto Rico has a long history of pro-independence movements. The island's Independence Party argues for full sovereignty, and support for independence saw significantly improved electoral showing in the 2024 statehood referendum compared to previous years.

### 3.4. Political division

The support for statehood has been a mixed and inconsistent decision between both parties of the U.S. Senate. Despite both having an overall opinion, multiple Senators and Resident commissioners have separated opinions about the more beneficial or pertinent actions that must be taken upon Puerto Rico.

**Republicans:** they have continuously opposed Puerto Rico becoming the 51st state for various reasons. Firstly they consider granting it statehood would give more power to the democratic party since believing Puerto Rico is a very democratic state. Nonetheless, Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon, the Puerto Rico representative has expressed being a Trump supporter and a major republican advocate.

**Democrats:** the reality is that partisan Democrats have often been attracted to the notion of an “enhanced” or “developed” “commonwealth” instead, and the gravitational pull of this concept, pressures Party leaders away from full endorsement of statehood.

Even though the majority of both parties seem to be in opposition of complete statehood, several individual leaders have decided to join Republican Resident Commissioner Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon in supporting the Puerto Rico Status Act, which offers a statehood option in a Puerto Rican plebiscite.

### 3.5. Background information

According to U.S. law, only Congress can initiate a process of status change for Puerto Rico since 1898, because Puerto Rico became part of the United States as a result of the Spanish American War of that year, and Congress has never taken action with regard to the status of Puerto Rico. For there to be a consideration congressional leaders

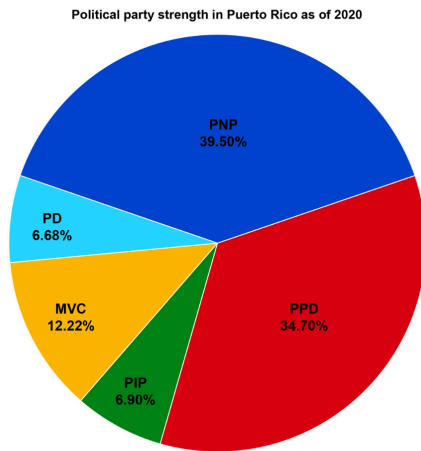
must put it in priority and the Senate must pass a bill approving its legislation for statehood. The crisis of this territory hasn't been on the senator's agenda, nor has anything been done since Puerto Ricans have asked for Statehood.

Puerto Rico has a diverse political landscape with several active parties that reflect a range of ideologies and political positions:

- **The Popular Democratic Party:** The PPD supports maintaining Puerto Rico's status as a U.S. territory, but they want enhanced autonomy, or "enhanced commonwealth."
- **The New Progressive Party:** The PNP advocates for Puerto Rico's statehood, seeking to make the island the 51st state of the United States.
- **Puerto Rican Independence Party:** PIP advocates for Puerto Rican independence from the United States, seeking full sovereignty and self-governance.
- **The Citizen's Victory Movement:** The MVC focuses on social justice, anti-corruption, and transparency, declaring support for non-colonialism in general but for no political status in particular.
- **Dignity Project:** The PD emphasizes conservative values, including traditional family values and a market-oriented approach to economic policies. It also



supports improved governmental transparency and accountability.



### 3.6. Guiding Questions

1. What has my senator spoken on concerning Puerto Rico's Status?
2. What are the advantages of giving Puerto Rico Statehood?
3. How has the congress reacted to the ongoing crisis?
4. How does the conflict affect my senator's state?
5. Should the senate approve a bill that could benefit Puerto Rico's statehood?
6. What organization could be the most beneficial to conclude the crisis in Puerto Rico?

### 3.7. Glossary of terms

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>Referendum</u></b></li></ul>	A general vote by the electorate on a single political question that has been referred to them for a direct decision.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>Paradox</u></b></li></ul>	A person or thing that combines contradictory features or qualities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>Statehood</u></b></li></ul>	The status of being one of the states of the U.S.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>Commonwealth</u></b></li></ul>	The Commonwealth of Nations was formed in 1949 to maintain an association between countries that had once been part of the British colonies, but which were considered 'free and equal'.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>Citizenship</u></b></li></ul>	The position or status of being a citizen of a particular country.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>Jones Act</u></b></li></ul>	The Jones Act is a federal law that

	regulates maritime commerce in the United States. The Jones Act requires goods shipped between U.S. ports to be transported on ships that are built, owned, and operated by United States citizens or permanent residents.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Territory</u></b></li> </ul>	An area of land under the jurisdiction of a ruler or state.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Resident Commissioner</u></b></li> </ul>	A non voting representative of a dependency in the U.S. House of Representatives.

### 3.8. Bibliographic references

1. Roy, D. (2025, 8 enero). Puerto Rico: A U.S. Territory in Crisis. *Council On Foreign Relations*. <https://www.cfr.org/background/puerto-rico-us-territory-crisis>
2. *Puerto Rico Political Status | Committee Activity | The House Committee on Natural Resources*. (s. f.). <https://democrats-naturalresources.house.gov/puerto-rico-political-status>
3. PR51st. (2025, 28 febrero). *Welcome | Puerto Rico 51st*. Puerto Rico 51st. <https://www.pr51st.com/>

4. Muñoz, S. (2024, 14 noviembre). Puerto Ricans vote symbolically—again—in favor of becoming U.S. state. *NBC 6 South Florida*.  
<https://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/puerto-ricans-vote-symbolically-again-in-favor-of-becoming-u-s-state/3472269/>
5. *Heinrich Leads Senate Introduction of the Puerto Rico Status Act* | U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich of New Mexico. (2023, 8 noviembre). Martin.  
<https://www.heinrich.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/heinrich-leads-senate-introduction-of-the-puerto-rico-status-act>

## **Topic B: Restricting Transgender Women from Competing in Women's Sports**

### 3.1 Introduction of the topic

The issue of transgender women competing against cisgender women in individual athletic competition is provocative and promises to become even more so in the coming years. Proponents of this type of competition believe that athletes should be able to compete against the gender with which they identify rather than the sex they were born into. Those opposed to this type of competition believe this “comingling” is a direct assault on landmark Title IX (prohibiting sex-based discrimination in any school or educational program receiving

funding from the federal government) of the 1972 federal Education Amendments and marks the beginning of the end of women's sports as we know it. Appealing to the principle of fair competition, more than 15 states are either considering or are in the process of passing legislation that prohibits transgender women from competing against cisgender women.



### 3.2. Historical Background

In the 1960s, women had to prove their sex to the panel for the Olympics. They were obligated to go through what was a "Naked Parade". This was a naked inspection to make sure they were in fact female and the panel were usually male physicians. Protests done by the athletes led them to end these "naked parades" and start testing women differently. So they started conducting a chromosome test for women to ensure they had the XX sex chromosome. "Despite the fact that this test was widely discredited in the scientific community, it was not dropped until shortly before the Sydney 2000 Olympics." (Donnelly, Peter, Donnelly, K., Michele).

Renee Richards was the first female transgender athlete to play professionally. She was born in 1934 as a male, her name was Richard Raskin. He was in constant battle between being male or female until he finally decided to have surgery in 1975 to reassign his gender.



He changed his name to Renee because this name means "reborn" in French. She played professional tennis and won a tournament in California. The US Open tried to conduct a chromosome screening due to controversy to try to keep her out. She refused to take this test so she sued the US Open to be able to still play tennis. The judges allowed her to play in the 1977 US Open which she lost to Virginia Wade, but made the finals of the women's doubles.

### 3.3. Current situation

At 17 years old Payton McNabb was struck by a spiking ball, during a high school match, an event that not only ended her athletic ambitions but reshaped the national conversation around fairness and safety in female sports.

The game seemed routine until the opposing transgender player spiked the ball into McNabb's head, leaving her unconscious for 30 seconds. McNabb was rushed off the court, leaving her team to continue the match. The injuries she sustained, a concussion, neck damage and two black eyes were just the beginning.



On March 3rd, 2025, Democratic senators banded together to exclude a bill proposed to ban transgender athletes from competing in sports. The Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, led by Tommy Tuberville, crashed before reaching the 60 votes needed to advance, halting the proposal that had passed the House in January. An Ipsos poll from January found 79% of Americans opposed transgender female athletes competing in women's sports, a statistic that would lead to believe that the bill would swiftly pass. The crushed vote is likely to rear its head back around, with Republicans positioning the issue as a key cultural battleground for years to come.



Earlier in February, President Donald Trump had explicitly directed homeland security to deny visas to “men attempting to fraudulently enter the United States while identifying themselves as women athletes” during the 2028 Olympics.

### 3.4 Political Division

**Republicans:** Argue that the bill is crucial to upholding the promise of Title IX and protecting equal opportunity in athletics for women and girls. Focused on the physical disadvantages cisgender women could have against transgender athletes and potential injury risks they face. Believe this means fewer college scholarships and fewer opportunities for girls. It also makes them second class citizens in their own sports.

**Democrats:** Believe such restrictions will further isolate transgender young people and stigmatize their identities. Also fuel public speculation about whether female athletes, transgender or not, look feminine enough to compete in women's sports. Argue that The bill is targeting a small number of people since less than 10 transgender athletes are competing in the NCAA.

### 3.5. Background information

The public is divided over the extent to which our society has accepted people who are transgender: 38% say society has gone too far in accepting them, while a roughly equal share (36%) say society hasn't gone far enough. About one-in-four say things have been about right. Underscoring the public's ambivalence around these issues, even among those who see at least some discrimination against trans people, a majority (54%) say society has either gone too far or been about right in terms of acceptance.





Amid a national conversation over these issues, many states are considering or have put in place laws or policies that would directly affect the lives of transgender and nonbinary people. Some of these laws would limit protections for transgender and nonbinary people; others are aimed at safeguarding them. The survey finds that a majority of U.S. adults (64%) say they would favor laws that would protect transgender individuals from discrimination in jobs, housing and public spaces such as restaurants and stores.

### 3.5. Guiding Questions

1. What beliefs does my senator have regarding transgender people?
2. Should transgenders be banned from competing professionally in sport?
3. What kind of laws does my state have regarding non-binary people?
4. What other solutions could be proposed?
5. Does my senator believe transgender women should be treated equally as cisgender women?

6. Can fair competition be ensured if transgender athletes compete in women's sports?
7. Does my senator believe in transgender rights?
8. Are there any health risks posed for any cisgender athletes?
9. Is the opposition to transgender athletes based on discrimination?

### 3.6. Glossary of terms

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Transgender</u></b></li> </ul>	Persons whose gender identity, gender expression or behavior does not conform to that typically associated with the sex to which they were assigned at birth.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Cisgender</u></b></li> </ul>	Someone whose internal sense of gender corresponds with the sex the person was identified as having at birth.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Sex chromosomes</u></b></li> </ul>	A type of chromosome involved in sex determination.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Concussion</u></b></li> </ul>	A mild traumatic brain injury that affects brain function.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Homeland security</u></b></li> </ul>	<p>The national effort to protect the United States from terrorism and other threats.</p>
---	---

### 3.7. Bibliographic references

1. Groves, S. (2025, 4 marzo). *Bill to ban trans athletes from girls' and women's sports teams fails in Senate* | *AP News*. AP News.  
<https://apnews.com/article/transgender-athletes-congress-dfd81b15ebc09409f1bf6c8642f130f3>
2. Mitchell, T., & Mitchell, T. (2024, 14 abril). *Americans' Complex Views on Gender Identity and Transgender Issues*. Pew Research Center.  
<https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2022/06/28/americans-complex-views-on-gender-identity-and-transgender-issues/>
3. Gedeon, J. (2025, 4 marzo). US Senate Democrats block bill to ban trans athletes from women's sports. *The Guardian*.  
[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/mar/04/democrats-block-trans-athletes-bi  
ll](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/mar/04/democrats-block-trans-athletes-bill)
4. *Transgender Athletes: History And Discrimination*. (2022, February 17). Edubirdie. Retrieved March 9, 2025, from  
<https://hub.edubirdie.com/examples/transgender-athletes-history-and-discrimination/>
5. ALEC SCHEMMEL, The National Desk. (2023, April 21). *Injured volleyball player speaks out after alleged transgender opponent spiked ball at her*. WLOS.

<https://wlos.com/news/local/volleyball-player-injured-after-transgender-opponent-spike-ball-at-her-speaks-out>

6. Gedeon, J. (2025a, febrero 28). The US threatens permanent visa bans on trans athletes based on sex markers. *The Guardian*.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/feb/25/visa-ban-transgender-athletes>

## **V. Expectations From the Chair**

For this Eighth edition of ASMUN the chair truly expects to see the best version of yourselves during the days of debate. As well as seeing you propose solutions and ideas to solve the conflicts concerning the stability of improvement of the United States of America.

The main goal of the Senate is to debate on the bills and proposals presented upon the committee. As you embark on the journey, we expect you to share your ideas with integrity, confidence and certainty. Listening to your fellow senators with respect and appreciation is also a crucial part in having a better development of the committee.

Senators, remember to have faith in your capabilities as much as we do, don't be afraid to make mistakes, we don't want you to miss out on having a great experience, we know that you all are going to have amazing development during the whole model.

## **VI. Recommendations From the Chair**

The chair recommends you to do broad investigations and read articles regarding both topics concerning the committee. It's also crucial for delegates to apprehend their senator's beliefs and positions to have a comprehension on how the senator would act upon those problems. Therefore, delegates could dispute each senator's stance with accuracy.

Understanding the meanings of key words belonging to the topics is also crucial for the use of proper language during the committee which may help improve your arguments and overall performance. To be more confident while debating, rely on your research and be open-minded with interventions. In the same way, listen to fellow delegates in order to have a following on present problematics happening during the sessions.

The most important recommendation is to allow yourself to go beyond your comfort zone and try new things. However, if not accomplishing what you wished during the committee don't stress since after all the ultimate goal is to learn while enjoying the experience.

