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TESTOSTERONE AND ALL THAT KINDA' STUFF

By Steve Bakke  May 10, 2019



A few days ago, we learned that a world class Olympic Gold Medal winning runner had unusually high testosterone. Caster Semenya has dominated female 800 meter running competition for the last decade. And now, IAAF officials determined she and others like her must chemically reduce their testosterone.

On May 8 we were cautioned about reaching a hasty conclusion about “chemically handicapping” a dominant athlete (“Natural advantages’ and fair play”). That writer cleverly reminded us that total fairness would require excellent performers to be brought “down to the level of us never-runs” – i.e., don’t mess with natural physical excellence. (That reminded me of an old short story by Kurt Vonnegut Jr., “Harrison Bergeron” – I won’t explain it, so please, check it out.)

Semenya has always had the physical characteristics of a female. However, her body naturally produces high levels of testosterone, and she has XY, biological male, hormones. Without getting into the anatomical details, some females develop internal organs that are male. Hence the XY characteristic. She has appeared to be a female all her life, and has not had a gradual or recent gender transformation.

This is further evidence that neither we, nor our legislators, are ready to try to institutionalize through legislation, a “final solution” dealing with gender equity issues. That’s what Pelosi’s “The Equality Act” is all about. We aren’t ready for that – informationally or intellectually. There’s too much we don’t understand – including both issues and solutions.