

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee;

As a teacher and coach of female athletes for over thirty years AND a parent of a former Division 1 female athlete, I am writing to support HB 0359, the Save Women's Sports Act. I was a teenager in 1972 when Title IX was passed. It gave so many women who wanted to play organized sports the right and opportunity to participate and compete in sports against other female athletes in college and up to the professional level. Now, forces in the trans and LGBTQ+ community are working to take those rights away and give them to biological men who have an unfair physical and competitive advantage over biological females.

We don't need to go backward just to placate a minute population who want to defy nature, utilize an unfair advantage, and assuage their fragile egos and desire to be winners, regardless of how unfair the competition is.

Recently, testimony from Riley Gaines, a world class NCAA swimmer, explained what it is like when women are shut out of fair athletic competition to appease and gratify the whim of a "trans" female who wants to use an unfair advantage to feed their ego. The trans person is "Lia" Thomas, who unsuccessfully competed as an NCAA male swimmer for three years in college. Lia was ranked #400 against other biological males. In Lia's fourth year, Lia decided to become a female and compete against biological women. Lia soundly defeated world class swimmers like Riley Gaines in the NCAA swimming championships. Lia claimed to be a female but had intact male genitalia and the body of a male in every way. Not only did Lia defeat women in the pool, but Lia pranced around in the women's locker room with mail genitals fully exposed, much to the dismay of females in the locker room.

This bill, HB 0359, protects women's sports from opportunistic males like Lia who display true misogyny by not only using unfair advantage to defeat women athletically but also by throwing their male genitalia in women's faces and traumatizing them.

The same people who wanted pay equality for women and so-called reproductive rights are now ready to sell out the rights of over fifty percent of the U.S. population to appease 0.39%. (Data from: American Journal of Public Health, "Transgender Population Size in the United States: a Meta-Regression of Population-Based Probability Samples," Esther L. Meerwijk, PhD and Jae M. Sevelius, PhD) They tell women to "work harder" and "just get over it." Funny, they don't the same thing when males competing against other males gain unfair advantage through performance enhancing drugs. They prosecute and ban those athletes.

And, let's not disregard the fact that we do not see biological females who are transgender males compete against males in sports that rely on athletic strength, speed and agility. Why? Because there is no competitive advantage to do so.

Some say that this unfair competition is rare. According to Riley Gaines, the NCAA Swimmer mentioned earlier, incidents of males competing as females is under reported at all levels of sport and occurs quite frequently. More incidents occur each year. This is not what Title IX was about.

Monica Wright, retired NBA player in an article in THE PLAYERS' TRIBUNE in 2017 ([Why We Need Title IX Now More Than Ever \(theplayerstribune.com\)](http://theplayerstribune.com)) quotes her basketball coach at the University of Virginia, Debbie Ryan, regarding the impact Title IX had on women's sports:

*"You guys are blessed," she used to tell us. "The fancy locker room, the chartered planes ... we didn't have that when I was playing. We used to share a locker room with the softball team. We used to have to ride a bus when the men's team would fly. We used to wash our own jerseys."*

And then the author adds:

*I know there are those who think that Title IX isn't important. Or that it hasn't had that much of an impact. Well, for those people, here are a few numbers to consider. Since 1972, participation in women's sports in high schools has increased 900%. That's not a typo. Before Title IX, there were fewer than 30,000 NCAA female athletes. In 2012, that number was nearly [200,000](#). Just to top it off, in 2012, the United States sent more female than male athletes to the Olympics.*

Title IX has allowed women's sports to grow and thrive. Allowing men to compete as women will kill this growth and make participation dwindle. It will ultimately erase not only the records women have achieved in each sport, but the opportunities in and existence of sports for biological women as well.

If biological males who are transgender females wish to compete on a level playing field in sports, create a venue for them to do that against other biological males who are transgender females. Do not put them in against biological women where the biological male who is transgender will have an unfair advantage.

Female athletes have made great strides in sports since 1972. As a former female athlete and teacher, coach of young women, and parent of a female athlete, I ask you to pass HB 0359 so women can continue to have opportunities in sports for fair competition at all levels.

Thank You,

Jan Greenhawk

Oxford, Maryland

Chapter Chair, Moms for Liberty

