

My name is Anya Kylie. I am an At Female At Birth intersex person. Yet my family decided when I was born that my traits meant to them they should raise me as a male and lie to me about the nature of my condition. When I started having a period in adolescence, it was confusing to say the least. In high school, the school was going to force me into girls' gym and to be designated as female, so my family decided to actually put me in an all-boys Catholic school instead, because they felt they knew what was best for me and my body. The fact my intersex condition made it so my body couldn't masculinize at all led to me being sexually assaulted by males at the Catholic school who wanted to see the female-to-male's naked body out of curiosity. Had my family and society been more understanding, an event that still to this day carries deep emotional significance would never have happened. Catholic school didn't even last one year before I was pulled out.

Even back in public high school where I could then join girls sports, I felt ashamed, confused, and hurt because of everything that happened to me, and I actually refused to do gym at all. Instead, I was given replacement credit from the school for my independent study of martial arts.

Yet this sort of situation still lingered in my life. I attended University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in 2015 earning a double degree with distinction. I was extremely athletic, yet even though I was invited/encouraged by the school and many of my female friends to join sports programs, I felt I couldn't – the pain of issues that happened in my youth still played out in my mind. That made me feel too traumatized to participate in the typical activities of athletes of my sex.

I wish I was in a more loving, supportive world where my natural body could not feel like a political football. My condition, Complete Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome, happens roughly between 1 in 45,000 and 1 in 90,000 times per male birth. This means the state of Maryland can have anywhere between 60-120 estimated women like me at any given time. Should we be denied full rights, even though we have bodies the same as any other woman? Should we be subjected to being forced into male sports and schools, like my conservative parents tried to do, leading to me being assaulted for my body? Is this the answer? Believe me, I know if my body and life experiences had been treated with dignity, it would have made a difference in my life currently.

This is why I felt the need to write today. Bigotry and misunderstanding of intersex conditions might have given me PTSD and nightmares until this day, but it was because of ignorant, abusive parents. Think of how much worse it would be if we turn that situation into the law, where the very state I reside in views my body as a crime for existing. I was literally born with this condition, a mutation – like so many others in the human experience. So why does the fact I am XY with a natural female body and sex have to be such a terrible thing, whereas my recessive mutations, such as blue eyes and blond hair, are looked at as favorable?

You're not protecting girls with these sorts of bills; you're merely terrorizing the most vulnerable girls in the population, including ones like me who, due to an inability to respond to androgens, when not supported and welcomed in society as a female-bodied individual, would have nowhere they are safe, since nothing could ever masculinize me or make my body any other way than it was meant to be.