

CONCERNED
WOMEN *for* **AMERICA**
LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

Testimony of Macy Petty Before Maryland Ways and Means Committee

My name is Macy Petty, and I am the State Legislative Strategist at Concerned Women for America (CWA) and a former NCAA volleyball player. Thank you, members of the Committee, for your attention to HB 63. This is an issue that hits close to home, not just because I represent the 500,000 CWA members who see men stealing women's athletic opportunities every day, but because a man almost unfairly robbed me of my dreams of playing college volleyball.

I set this goal at a very early age—I decided I was willing to do anything to compete at the next level. I was the girl who never got to go to prom, spent every weekend traveling the country for volleyball tournaments, and, of course, worked hours in the gym to increase my vertical even an inch. I'd imagine many of you have or know young girls who have had this same hustle. But when an opportunity came for me to show off these skills to college scouts, I was placed up against a man with unconquerable advantages. I was absolutely shocked and confused—there were plenty of opportunities for him to compete on the men's courts on the other side of the convention center, where the nets are over 7 inches higher than our female nets. By the grace of God, no one was seriously injured, but I witnessed how dangerous it really is to ignore the true, immutable differences between our sexes.

It did not matter what this young boy was facing emotionally; by letting him bypass the rules of the game, meaning that boys have to play on boys' teams, USA Volleyball jeopardized all of the girls' safety and opportunity, and of course, mocked our design as women. There was nothing we could have done.

I urge you to take swift action to make Maryland a place where little girls like me can dream, and work their tails off, to be incredible athletes. Sports have the potential to play incredibly formative roles in young children's lives, and everyone deserves the opportunity to pursue that. But that reality is only possible for everyone, no matter their sex, if we preserve the integrity of the women's category. The men's volleyball net is not seven inches higher because of personality traits, identification, or anything other than biological facts. Because we've ignored those simple facts, men have stolen over 1,900 gold medals from women in the United States, and you can do something about it. I urge you, on behalf of Concerned Women for America LAC, to pass HB 63 and keep women's sports for women only.