

Save Women's Sports Testimony

Jennifer Evans

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Good morning/afternoon. My name is Jennifer Evans. I have been involved in competitive athletics since I was five, including gymnastics, track and high school and college soccer. I still play on a women's soccer team to this day of which I am thankful I have the choice to play on a female only team. Competing in sports taught me lessons about hard work, never quitting and working together as a team – all lessons that shaped me into the person I am today. Through all these years, I have witnessed first-hand through coaching high school track and watching both my kids play on a co-ed soccer team in high school that the biological differences between males and females overwhelmingly led to male domination. No matter how talented the female soccer players were, for example, the less skilled males would always dominate the game through sheer strength and speed.

My daughter, Macie, just graduated high school and has been working extremely hard to earn a track scholarship since 6th grade. I knew she loved to run from the time she started running loops around the outside of our house at the age of 8. She attended a small private school and topped out at her level of competition by winning State in the 400M Dash as a Sophomore. So as a Junior, she transferred to a large, public school to increase competition, receive better coaching, and increase the odds of running in College. It was a sacrifice she chose to make leaving her friend group of ten years to achieve her goal. However, she lost that season and summer track due to COVID but persevered and trained on her own, including jumping fences to run on the track, lifting weights at home and cross training on the local trails. I am proud and joyful to say today that her tenacity, drive and dedication has earned her a spot on a D1 college track team. Her dad and I could not be prouder of her hard work and achievement and look forward to watching her compete in college.

However, she now potentially faces a much bigger obstacle, one that no amount of training or dedication could overcome. This obstacle would be competing against a male body in college. All her years of hard work, overcoming adversity to shave fractions of a second off her time would be crushed by allowing male bodies to compete with female bodies. The fact is, college level female runners are easily beat by high school boys, and yes, even middle school boys. One of the fastest female runners in the world, Alyson Felix, has times slower than over 300 high school boys. The impact of allowing this could mean Macie potentially losing out on awards and scholarships – and no amount of training can overcome it.

There are numerous studies documenting the physiological advantages of males over females. One such study is from the British Journal of Sports Medicine. It found that even after 2 years of testosterone suppression, transgender athletes were 12% faster than biological females. How will our daughters ever stand a chance against this advantage? We must simply look with our own eyes, as rational human beings, to realize just how unequal this “competition” is. We must put facts before feelings. All the progress Title IX has produced towards equality in sports for our daughters will be erased. All the patience and determination it took for our mothers and their mothers to get their own league apart from men will be erased. Do transgender athletes have a right to compete in the world of athletics? Absolutely. But not at the cost of destroying Title IX. Why should transgender athlete not either compete in their own biological sex category OR wait to get their own league like women did decades ago? If we allow this to continue, I believe it would be the end of women’s sports as we know it.

The “Equality” Act accomplishes the exact opposite of its stated goal: inequality. This act takes steps backwards, not forward; it is regressive, not progressive. My daughter has worked too hard to get where she is today. I am asking you to support HER RIGHTS as a female athlete to compete against her biological peers. One female athlete losing championships or scholarships to a biological male is one too many. Thank you.