Women have had to fight for decades for the equal right to participate in education, high-school and college sports programs, and scholarships. Title IX has been a crucial tool in this fight, by ensuring that women receive equal federal funding in educational opportunities. But its success depends on being clear about which population it is meant to serve, and which inequities it addresses. Stripping language specifying sex from Title IX and substituting gender does nothing to help women, and in fact can be used as a tool of discrimination against us, by forcing women to give up single-sex spaces and programs without which we cannot achieve equal opportunities.

Women and girls need the explicit protections of single-sex spaces and opportunities. We still struggle with widespread sex-based discrimination, and it is unjust to conflate sex and gender in Title IX enforcement. This only serves to obscure the actual problem. Gender identity should be given separate, specific protections of own.

Further, you are telling women that fairness just doesn't matter, that they do not warrant equal opportunities under the law. Fairness matters. Women and girls matter. We comprise the majority of this country's population, and we have yet to achieve equal representation in any area of American life. Please take our needs into consideration in your balancing of equity and access to opportunity.

Thank you.