

From: Aeslyn Kail
Sent: Thu, 10 Jun 2021 10:57:14 -0500
To: T9PublicHearing
Subject: Title IX Public Hearing Maintain Title IX Protections

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To those in the Office for Civil Rights,

Thank you for this opportunity to express my opinions on this topic; it is wonderful that the Office for Civil Rights is consulting the public on this complex topic.

It is vitally important that single sex spaces and activities are maintained throughout society, but especially in an educational context. There is an abundance of evidence showing that women and girls are safer and included better in single sex spaces. To eliminate these protections — not even a century after their protection was codified — would cause irreparable damage to some of the most vulnerable populations within our country.

That being said, gender identity/presentation must also be protected. It would be best to ensure these concepts are addressed separately (not to lump them both under the heading of “sex”) when creating and enforcing protections. Third spaces — for individuals who feel uncomfortable using the space designated for their sex — may be the best solution for everyone involved. Single stall/family restrooms would benefit trans individuals who require a gender neutral space along with disabled individuals and parents/families. Similar solutions should be pursued for other outstanding issues.

Primarily however, the problems that inspired the creation of Title IX have not resolved themselves over the past fifty years. Female individuals still face unique challenges that deserve to be addressed, and failing to do so would be foolhardy. As such, the protections afforded to women and girls through Title IX must be continued, not weakened or erased.

Thank you for your consideration.