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To: T9PublicHearing
Subject: Improving Enforcement of Title IX

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Honored Committee Members

I am a Professor in the department of Psychiatry & Human Behavior at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University and a Professor of Public Health at the Brown School of Public Health. I have spent my career studying and promoting physical activity. I write to offer my strongest support for Title IX which was passed by Congress 50 years ago to ensure equal access and opportunity for women - then clearly understood to mean human females.

When I was a child, before Title IX, it was common to hear that "girls don't play sports" or if your school did offer some sports to girls the equipment was often used, hand-me-downs from the boys' teams. This was deeply unfair and discriminatory. Title IX has been a godsend to women and girls. Indeed, the USA Women's teams have made us proud, winning many international competitions, world class athletics and Olympic medals.

However, females cannot compete against males in most sports and win - the male advantage is overwhelming. No amount of testosterone suppression changes this. Males have narrower hips (advantage in track and cycling), denser bones (less prone to breakage and concussion), more hemoglobin, larger hearts and lungs giving them vastly greater cardiovascular capacity. None of this is reversed by cross-gender hormones. Sports are played by bodies and to ensure a fair playing field, sports are typically divided by age, sex and experience categories. A heavyweight boxer cannot compete in the middleweight division, a 17-year-old wrestler cannot compete against 10-year-olds, and a black-belt in martial arts cannot compete against yellow-belts. This is to ensure fairness. Similarly, a biological male should never be allowed to compete against females in any sport that is not open to both sexes (co-educational). Women's and girls' sports need to be closed to biological males under all circumstances since gender identity, cross sex hormones, etc. do not reverse the advantages that males have. This is both for reasons of fairness and the safety of the athletes.

Importantly, gender identity is a fluid, rapidly-changing concept, based on personal feelings and often subject to circular definitions. It makes a poor candidate for a protected class.

I also wish to clarify that I am not suggesting that trans-identified people can't play sports or have equal access to sports. They just need to play within their same biological-sex category. This is the same for everyone. This is fair. That a trans-identified male ("trans-woman") might feel more comfortable competing on the women's team, should not justify overriding the rights of women and girls to fair competition and a level, safe playing field.

I also add that I am a strong supporter of the rights of individuals regardless of sexual orientation. Gay, lesbian and bisexual individuals have fought for and won their right to fair treatment and inclusion. I am concerned however, that the aggressive overreach of trans-gender activism may result in a backlash against the LGB community.

Best Regards

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