

From: Elizabeth Scott
Sent: Fri, 4 Jun 2021 15:39:45 +0000
To: T9PublicHearing
Subject: Written Comment: Title IX Public Hearing (topic of the comment)

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To All Whom It Concerns:

I write to publicly comment against any proposed changes in Title IX that would change sex-based protections to gender identity based protections.

Title IX was enacted in 1972 to prevent sex-based discrimination, in order to allow women and girls equal participation in education and sports. Sex-defined spaces allow women and girls full participation in education and sports by providing them with safety & privacy in places of bodily vulnerability (such as states of undress in restrooms and locker rooms); and opportunity to participate in sports. Prior to Title IX, schools did not have to offer women's sports teams, locker rooms, or equal resources in those regard.

Girls and women need sex-segregated sports to be able to compete fairly. There is simply too much physiological difference between males and females. Studies (such as Joanna Harper, et al 's publication in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, March 1, 2021) show that biological male bodies retain physical advantages over female bodies, even after transition. Male bodies have more muscle mass, larger hands and feet, larger hearts & lung capacity, longer legs/stride, etc. It is simply unfair to females to require that they compete against them in school sports.

Furthermore, female people need sex-segregated restrooms and locker rooms to provide them with safety and peace of mind when they are in states of undress. Without sex-segregated spaces, women and girls will not be able to participate fully in public education. Fear for safety, or simply a lack of privacy and dignity, will make girls and women avoid restrooms. This sometimes results in phenomena such as skipping school during periods, holding urine for many hours, and leaving tampons in for too long. This is especially true of school-aged girls (K-12), who are more sensitive to needs for privacy. Lack of privacy leads to these

material consequences, which threaten bodily health and/or lead to missed education.

In addition, lack of sex-segregated spaces will limit the educational opportunities of girls and women whose religion prohibits the mixing of sexes in locker rooms and bathrooms. Girls from Muslim, Jewish, Mormon, or any religious background, have the right to same-sex facilities so that their education does not force them to violate their religious convictions.

If Title IX is changed to create “gender identity” spaces and sports (rather than sex-based spaces and sports), then Title IX will offer women and girls no protections or opportunities. All spaces will become, in effect, mixed spaces. Women and girls will be required to use mixed bathrooms and locker rooms. Females will be required to compete against males. Such a change would be patently unfair.

Thank you for your time and consideration. All views expressed are my own, and do not represent any organization.

sincerely,

Elizabeth Scott

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Woman, US Citizen, Feminist, Democrat