

From: Leslie Crane
Sent: Fri, 11 Jun 2021 18:53:58 +0000 (UTC)
To: T9PublicHearing
Subject: Written Comment: Title IX Public Hearing about Discrimination on the Basis of Sex

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I'm writing to express my concern about the discriminatory policy set forth by Biden's administration that confuses so called gender identity with sex. Girls and women fought for our own spaces so we could not only compete but to also receive the benefits from healthy and fair competition.

I'm a former Division 1 scholarship track athlete from the state of Connecticut. I'm also the daughter of a pre-title IX college athlete mother and the sister of two college athletes who are 10 years younger. The difference between female athletics between my mothers generation, mine and that of my sisters is directly due to the meaningful and powerful impact Title IX has played in girls lives; especially at risk girls, girls and women of color and those who are economically or otherwise socially disadvantaged. Please do not take this away from girls and women.

I was the 1996 female Indoor Track High Jump Champion. In my event across all levels of track - HS, College and Olympic levels males jump on average a foot taller than females do. I had the high school record for decades - no male HS student would ever even practice high jump if his best was my record.

It is absolutely absurd to think a trans identified male does not have an unfair advantage. High school and college sports are about much more than just participating. Don't make girls feel bad for wanting to win and succeed. Have you ever thought that was fair to do to a male who had hopes of college athletic scholarships? No, of course not. Male students who want to follow female stereotypes and who identify as girls can fairly participate with their birth sex.

The short-term and lifelong benefits of girls participating in sports is well documented. Lower teen pregnancy, higher braces, higher graduation rates, higher earning potentials and more leadership roles. Please do not sacrifice girls and women and take this away from us.

Participating without a shot at winning isn't a lot of fun and will dissuade many to not bother participating at all. It only takes one to shatter the hope and dreams of many.

On a personal level, I've drawn from my years as a trained athlete in relearning how to walk not once but twice. I firmly believe that without title IX and the benefits it provided me, my life would be incredibly limited and I would have never gotten out of the wheelchair. Please don't take title IX away from girls and women. It must be defined on the basis of sex. They are worthy of their own spaces, they fought for it and deserve it.

Sincerely,
Leslie Crane

(b)(6)

Co-captain 1996 girls Indoor State Track Champions
Co-captain 1996 girls outdoor track

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