

**From:** Laura Haynes Collector  
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**Subject:** Title 9 - Public comment

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Dear Sir and Madam,

I am a CASA: a Court Appointed Special Advocate for foster youth. I am a sworn officer of the court in CA and have been trained to support the best interests of all children without bigotry or bias.

I am a left wing democrat and an atheist. I say this because my thoughts re 'gender' have nothing to do with religion/ right wing ideas but rather come from my commitment to the health and mental health of kids and to women's rights.

I have deep concerns about 'gender' ideology — due to my experience as an advocate for foster youth. Foster youth have VERY HIGH rates of TG identification— as do kids on the autism spectrum. In the case of Foster Youth the rate of TG identification is \*15 times\* the population at large. I have educated myself to be able to provide intelligent advocacy for kids experiencing gender issues.

\*Dysphoria\* (a common aftereffect of early life trauma) is now regularly being conflated with "gender dysphoria," and many Foster youth are being transitioned when they actually suffer from developmental trauma. Their mental health issues need psychiatric care, not drugs or surgeries. "Affirmative care" doesn't ask if you were raped as a child, if your mother abandoned you, or if you are a future gay person being bullied for your nonconformity. If you say "I think I'm trans" you are believed and mirrored from minute one. This can be a terrible mistake with many foster kids.

Because kids suffering from trauma's aftereffects are incorrectly labeled as Trans, and because medicalization of children will sterilize them and lead to sexual problems and lack of orgasm in adulthood, the *greatest* caution is warranted when trying to accommodate gender nonconformity in law. The law's recognition of 'trans kids rights' may actually send a \*greater\* number of minors into chemical castration, when they really need talk therapy. There must be a more nuanced approach that protects the human rights of all kids but also recognizes the reasons girls teams exist as separate from boys is PHYSICAL (sex), not mental (gender feelings). And that the less medicalized someones body is, the healthier.

It is prudent to remember that this large population of supposedly suicidally-gender-misattributed kids DID NOT EVEN EXIST fifteen years ago. It is a new phenomenon, fueled by self-misdiagnosis, online activity and grooming. Gender must be critically examined, as sterilizing kids is a large price to pay for mere cosmetic changes. No medical maneuver can possibly change human sex. 'Trans girls' are, physically, boys.

We have teams for boy bodies and teams for girl bodies-- thanks to Title IX. GIRLS need these teams to be fair and governed by physical reality not the self proclaimed feelings of males, however distressed those males may be. Girls should not be forced to subordinate their ambitions and athleticism and spots on teams to serve the feelings of boys. That's a horrible and sexist message that must never be supported and is antithetical to Title IX.

Female record-holding sprinter Allison Felix, the world's fastest woman, would be beaten by over 300 high school boys \*each year\*. Boys have major physical advantages via Testosterone: lungs, skeleton, muscle mass. This is exactly why girls have their own divisions and teams. Letting teen boys self ID as girls will mean scholarships and spots reserved for girls, guaranteed by Title IX, will be given to boys. This would have a devastating effect on GIRLS and WOMEN, uniquely. (Trans-identified girls do not threaten boys or their Teams because they have physical disadvantages).

So the recognition of gender over sex ONLY penalizes GIRL athletes. NOT FAIR.

And be aware that the current 'progressive' position on gender is falling apart elsewhere in the world. In England, the NHS have decided kids cannot possibly give informed consent to waiving future fertility or sexual response-- and the NHS have stopped transitioning children.

England has also decided that males must not be incarcerated with females, no matter how the males identify. 'Trans women'— males who identify as females— actually have HIGHER rates of sexual and violent crimes than other males-- and stratospherically higher rates than incarcerated females. SEX governs this difference, not gender.

Finland and Sweden too are backing away from the 'gender' beliefs currently espoused in the US. Progressive western countries are REASSESSING the validity of TG ideology, and curtailing the treatment given to children (88% of whom would DESIST if left allowed to go through natural puberty). MANY trans identified kids have a number of serious mental health diagnoses (80% have at least 2!!) that are likely to be more relevant to their distress than 'gender.' Gender seems, more and more, like a “designated issue” for many struggling kids, rather than the core problem.

Importantly, medical transition does NOT improve mental health of sufferers, and does NOT reduce suicidality. The biggest lie trans organizations peddle is that child transitioning is needed for the mental health of the trans-identified person. This has been the lever to push gender recognition into public institutions. But-- it isn't true. Caution is warranted! The activist position is not scientifically validated.

So the Biden administration is way out over its skis when seeking to enshrine 'trans kids rights.'

There is NO evidence for innate gender. There is overwhelming evidence that trauma and abuse in early life often lead to serious dysphoria, identity issues, dissociation, and psychic pain. THIS is the scientifically validated explanation for the distress of dysphoric kids.

We need to protect the right to grow up before making permanent physical changes to bodies, not enshrine those changes at ever-younger ages. Listen to detransitioners... young people in their 20's, now sterile and surgically altered, who NO LONGER consider themselves 'trans.' Who needed mental health help and did not get it.

THIS too must be considered as we race to accommodate self designed identities for kids with mental health problems, and mix up definitions like SEX and GENDER. What is decided here should not ENCOURAGE transition as we don't have ANY evidence that it is wiser for kids to transition.

Regardless, it is bodies that play sports, not feelings. SEX must not be conflated or subordinated to GENDER.

- Sex has objective reality. Gender is self proclaimed, fuzzy, “fluid” and un-policable.

- GIRLS need their own teams. No male should be able to identify onto a girls team, taking the place of a girl for whom the team is meant.

- GIRLS deserve scholarships for sports, and these should not be open to self-ID'd young men with male bodies.

-What stops a Trans identified boy from taking a GIRLS scholarship, then de-identifying later, once the free college education has been received?

-GIRLS need privacy from males in changing rooms and bathrooms. TG girls are MALES. If Trans identified youth want their own teams and changing rooms, that would be another way of handling the participation of all kids in a way that is fair to girls (including trans identified girls!!)

Thank you for your consideration,

Laura Haynes Collector

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