

From: Liz O
Sent: Wed, 9 Jun 2021 21:54:39 +0000 (UTC)
To: T9PublicHearing
Subject: "Written Comment: Title IX Public Hearing (Self ID Puts Women and Girls at Risk)."

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I do not want to disclose my private information because I am a divorced mother providing solely for my autistic son without any child support or state aid. If I were to get Doxxed like many other feminists have just for worrying about men coming into our spaces, I would have no way to support him. It is INSANE that women have to hide our experiences and opinions for fear of men attacking us and our livelihoods. I am willing to communicate directly with someone if you need to validate my identity, provided that information does not become part of the public record.

I am now 37, but when I was still a student, a boy my same age sexually assaulted me in a darkroom at our school. I have pretty severe trauma issues now and although I do take care of myself and my son, I often can't do social things because being around most men, even after about two decades, scares me. I can not go to a store or a gym if I don't know the bathroom is a space I could be in safely, since the darkroom was a lot like a bathroom.

That boy who tried to force himself on me? He has publicly self-identified as a LESBIAN. He has not taken hormones or had surgery. He has a penis that he has previously used as a weapon. If I were to say this to others, they would chastise me for misgendering him, but he is a predatory man and a rapist (while he didn't succeed me with, he did with another, younger girl at our school). Those who commit sex crimes, in particular, should not have access to women's spaces, ESPECIALLY women's prisons or locker rooms.

In high school, he was over six feet tall and much stronger than most girls the same age as him. Under these proposed changes elevating gender over sex, this male who has assaulted me and several other women that I know of could have access to girl's locker rooms and bathrooms. The girls he might leer at or assault would likely face more punishment for speaking up than he would for his actions. He could even join a girl's team, causing injury to the female players (he played a contact sport in school).

Women and girls can not participate in school or other areas of public life if they have to constantly be exposed to predation, sexual threats, and voyeurism. All you need to do is look at how many teen boys watch porn (basically 100% of them) and how violent their favorite kinds of porn are to see how dangerous teen boys are to the girls in school right now.

Trans people deserve rights and protections, but those rights can not come at the expense of or supercede the protections of women and girls, who have historically faced far more hate-based crimes due to our SEX than any other group has endured in human history. Men and boys murder and rape us with very few penalties. If you allow them even more access, you will actively undermine the basic human and educational rights of girls. Trans people can and should have third-option spaces for changing and bathrooms. Trans athletes should play sports with those whose biological advantages align with their own.

Hormones alone don't make men better performers than the average female athlete. They also have bigger lungs and hearts, denser muscles, stronger bones, and stronger ligaments and connective tissue. There is plenty of science on these differences if you don't just cherry-pick questionable policies about testosterone. A few hormone treatments will do nothing to change all of those cumulative advantages. You can not endanger girls and force them to the sideline to pander to those born as men, regardless of how they identify. Gender is a social construct and can change in seconds. Sex doesn't change, ever. Those who can not choose whether or not to be vulnerable, those who were born female, need protections to survive in this world. Women deserve their own bathrooms, prisons, rape crisis shelters, and sports. And women like me, who have enduring male sexual violence still deserve access to public

accommodations. Why is my PTSD somehow less-deserving of accommodation than someone's body dysphoria?

At the end of the day, self-id is a dangerous policy for all women and girls because there is literally no way to tell the difference between someone with predatory intentions and someone who just really wishes they were the other sex. There are countless more women and girls that need your protection than there are males who demand access to girl's spaces and sports. PLEASE make a decision that supports the sex-based rights of women and girls while offering supports for trans people to access third-option spaces for changing and similar needs.