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To: T9PublicHearing
Subject: Written Comment: Title IX Public Hearing

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I am writing in opposition to allowing born males (boy, man, XY) to compete in female (girl, woman, XX) sports; to trans-identified male (TiM, also known as “trans women”) access to women’s restrooms/changing rooms; and to unisex or shared restrooms/changing rooms.

Girls’ sports should remain limited to girls only, for fairness and safety reasons. The athletic advantages in almost all sports conferred on males by puberty (including but not limited to differences in testosterone) give males an unfair advantage competing against females. Not only would females lose out on championships they would otherwise earn, but may be denied athletic scholarships to university they would otherwise have earned. As well, in contact sports, males' greater height, weight, and bone density pose a significant safety risk to females. Studies have shown that suppressing testosterone levels in males in and of itself does not mitigate the advantages conferred by male puberty — testosterone suppression doesn’t have a significant effect on height, bone density, heart & lung size which confer an advantage through better O2 processing during activity, hip shape, or even musculature. As these advantages cannot be mitigated, the only fair and safe solution in sports is segregation by biological sex.

Allowing TiMs, or trans women, access to women’s restrooms and changing rooms not only poses a safety risk for females, but constitutes a clear violation of women’s religious rights and freedoms. Most every female upon the beginning of puberty must manage their monthly menses, which involves taking care of this very private business in the restroom. This is something born males simply don’t experience; as well, during their teenage years, many boys simply won’t respect girls’ privacy if allowed access to these spaces. Perhaps even more importantly, many Muslim, Jewish, and Christian denominations or sects, as well as other faith groups, have strict rules concerning females sharing private spaces with, or exposing skin to the sight of, males who are not family members. In practice, if TiMs/trans women are allowed access to these female-only spaces, or if public institutions institute shared or unisex restrooms and/or changing rooms, women of these faith traditions would be forced to make the unconscionable choice between following their faith and losing out on educational/sports opportunities, or kicking their beliefs to the curb to get an education.

I strongly urge the Department of Education to respect the rights of girls and women by finding solutions that do not involve TiMs/trans women competing in girls' sports, or violating the private spaces of females.

- Michael Heister