

**From:** Molly Skelton  
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**To:** T9PublicHearing  
**Subject:** Amendments to Title IX

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## Comments

regarding Title IX Education Amendments:

My name is Molly Skelton, and I have been teaching high school students for nearly 30 years. I teach AP Psychology, Civics, and worked for 10 years as a Model UN teacher advisor.

I would like to share practical concerns

regarding these amendments. Please note that in my comments I am distinguishing between sex and gender, ie, a transgender girl is a male, and a girl is a female. A transgender boy is a female, and a boy is a male.

The consequence of such amendments will affect students, teachers, and staff at all schools.

First, please consider the practical nature of such a change when it comes to extra-curricular activities. For example, on overnight field trips (ie, Model UN), will we permit transgender boys and transgender girls to share bedrooms with those of their opposite sex? This does put children into private hotel rooms in which they are able to have sex, and risk sexually transmitted diseases, as well as pregnancy. Although permission slip forms might forbid sexual activity, it's practical to suggest that students will engage in such behavior. To what degree are teachers and advisors responsible for such a consequence?

Second, on sports teams, to what degree are coaches responsible for injury that could be a consequence of males having naturally more strength than transgender boys, or transgender girls having more strength than females? Further, are coaches required to oversee locker rooms in which both females and males could be nude, which should then require that coaches who are both female and male preside over the locker room?

Third, when children are changing for physical education, must both male and female teachers be observant in the locker rooms to ensure that acts of sex, and sex-based aggression, do not occur? Also, to what degree are teachers responsible for children possibly having sex, or partaking in/suffering

sex-based aggression, in locker rooms? Further, to what degree must all students participate in such a locker room setting, especially when some students do come from religious or conservative backgrounds in which observing the nude opposite sex is considered sin?

Fourth, as an Advanced Placement psychology teacher, I understand that doctors refer to children with a diagnostic term of "gender dysphoria", not "transgender". A debate occurs in healthcare today that medical/affirmative treatment of transgender children may or may not be effective. Both transition and de-transition occur among children. Can schools have liability for following treatment guidelines prescribed by a doctor - such as keeping parents uninformed of the affirmative change (as some states do permit) - and can these school districts then be sued if the treatment is found to be unethical/unwarranted/harmful?

Fifth, as a Civics teacher, I have concerns that the Department of Education, in establishing a new definition for Title IX, is overlooking equal protection. For example, to what degree do female students have equal protection for a fair athletic opportunity? Further, if it's determined that equal protection is necessary here, will school athletics and activity then be determined as needing co-ed teams to ensure equity in athletic and activity opportunity?

Sixth, in passing this policy, has the Department of Education evaluated the consequence of ensuing lawsuits that will result, which will cost local school districts a great deal of money?

Thank you for your time in reviewing my comments.