

**From:** Mary Verrandeaux  
**Sent:** Tue, 8 Jun 2021 13:24:02 -0400  
**To:** T9PublicHearing  
**Subject:** PLEASE SAVE GIRLS AND WOMENS SPORTS!

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My name is Mary Higgins; I am a former elite athlete. I raced for the US National Cycling team. In 1985 I raced the Women's Tour de France, I am a 3X Olympic qualifier, 9X State Road Champion, US National Champion with 8 podium wins at Nationals Road Championships.

I have trained and raced since 1982 while working full time. I've been hit by 2 cars. I've suffered numerous broken bones, injuries and surgeries pursuing my career as a cyclist. Women's sports have always suffered, but never has this issue of having boys and men competing as girls and women been as destructive and will continue to completely destroy women's sports. The effects are so devastating that I have seen entire women's teams quit racing. I know many women who refuse to race now. Men are winning women's National Championships, World Championships. They are crushing the biological girls and women competitors in what should be women's ONLY races. Men are taking women's World records, smashing women's National records and they are taking girls and women's scholarships. Without banning men from women's competitions, there will soon be no women in sports.

Boys and men are faster, stronger. They are built for strength and nothing will ever change those advantages. Boys are born with 20% larger lungs, blood volume, bones, hearts...You can't change that. Women have more body fat, we have to contend with monthly cycles that affect our performance and lastly, men are more dangerous as they are inherently more aggressive, stronger and take more risks. They are NOT women!

I am personally begging you to protect females before more girls and women get physically hurt, emotionally devastated and quit competing.

Imagine you taking the risks, training, suffering, sacrificing...only to know you've already lost - before you even begin.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Higgins