Good morning from

My name is Rae Anne Robinett and I am an American taxpayer and upstanding, educated citizen, born a Woman. I have been a life-long liberal Democrat who has advocated for equal rights my entire life. For these reasons, I cannot stay silent witness to the dismantling of protections provided under Title IX to Women and Girls.

I am writing in support for single-sex sports for Women and Girls, and constitutional protections for freedom of speech, belief, and immutable biological reality. In the United States, a country founded on religious freedom and freedom of speech, no religion has ever forced me to adopt their beliefs in the way that the push to include Men and Boys in the category of Women and Girls’ sports has required. There are real, biological differences between Women and Men and this reality is acknowledged and reflected in American policy under the single sex-provisions in Title IX.

Title IX has ensured that women have prospered at all levels of the education system, including through increased participation in competitive athletics – something that would not have been realized had we never had a single-sex sport category for Women. The Department of Education is considering policy changes that threaten to roll back these gains by re-interpreting Title IX to prohibit single-sex sports teams – a regressive, sexist move that treats the accomplishments of Women and Girl athletes as a joke. Words have meaning and we should stick to these well-established, biological reality based definitions held true by Human Beings since as far back as anyone remembers and still held around the World to this day. Conflating the religious, metaphysical belief in “Gender Self Identification” makes ridiculous the words “Woman” and “Man” and the concept of "sex-segregated" sports. To allow Boys and Men to compete in the category of Girl’s and Women’s sports is to make sex-segregated sports non-existent, i.e. it will eliminate the category of Women’s sports rendering it a
mixed category, per biological reality. No person is able to escape the biology in which we were born. We witness this by the fact that no Girls or Women who think they are Boys or Men are competing in Men’s Open Category sports let alone winning as Men (...they’re certainly not breaking any Men’s records!). I question the sincerity of the need to dismantle Title IX for Girls and Women before advocating for a third category for medicalized athletes.

When female athletes compete in coed teams, they are deprived of titles, records, medals, scholarships, and opportunities to win, or participate, fairly and safely. In one example, two male high school track runners in Connecticut blew away female competitors at the state track championship and smashed 15 records previously held by female competitors.

I firmly believe in equality and dignity for all and will advocate as such all the days of my life. I encourage you to remember that all students are welcome to use sex-specific programs and spaces with their same-sex peers, and that this has not changed. We cannot allow the rights of women and girls to be dictated by threats, nor can we allow women and girls to be silenced by threats of discipline, suspension, or even expulsion for speaking the truth or for saying no.

I urge the Office of Civil Rights to ensure the legacy of Title IX by continuing to enforce the law on the basis of sex, and to affirm that the first amendment protects our right to discuss issues of public concern, including matters that affect single-sex spaces and sports. Otherwise, we risk turning the clock back on 50 years of educational advancements for women and girls.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Rae Anne Robinett

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