

CONCERNED
WOMEN *for* AMERICA
LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE
YOUNG WOMEN FOR AMERICA

I know some people think that the saying "Save Women's Sports" is an exaggeration – as if women's sports are not truly at risk. As a college volleyball player who has had firsthand experiences, let me be very clear: it is not an exaggeration. Women's sports are at risk of disappearing.

Good morning, my name is Macy Petty, and I am here representing Young Women for America, the high school and collegiate arm of Concerned Women for America, the nation's largest public policy women's organization. I also happen to be an NCAA scholarshiped collegiate volleyball player.

Since elementary school, I've played volleyball. I'm hooked on it, but it has not always been easy. As a kid, I would sit outside for hours learning how to overhand serve.

Now, in college, I endure conditioning tests and extreme weight and speed training. I do everything I possibly can to increase my vertical another inch, including running, lifting, and eating right to fuel my body correctly.

I'm motivated knowing that other girls in the conference are doing the exact same thing. It is a race to excellence and every advantage counts

I will never forget the day I walked into my club tryouts for the first time, and the net felt impossibly high. I remember trying to block and barely even getting my fingertips above the net. I realized we were playing on a men's net.

In the rules of volleyball, the men's net is seven inches higher than the women's net. This height difference has nothing to do with personality, sexuality, identity, or anything other than biological facts. These seven inches were there for a reason because men are born naturally more athletic, and their sport reflects this.

If you have ever played volleyball, you may know how significant a one-inch decrease in net height can be; it's a game-changer. Average players suddenly hit like all-Americans. Now imagine a male volleyball athlete playing on a net seven inches shorter! Suddenly all that work increasing my vertical no longer matters.

This is the reality for female athletes competing against men. Biological males are playing on nets seven inches shorter than a men's net and bringing their biological advantage with them.

I have played my sport against biological men and watched them use their biological advantages to take the scholarships and championships of females who have worked so hard.

This is not a hypothetical situation. This is happening in many women's sports. It is happening today in the NCAA Division 1 Women's Swimming and Diving Championships.

My fellow female athletes, we must use our voices to protect the future of girls' sports. If we do not, our daughters and future generations will never know the life-changing opportunities that come from girls' sports

If feelings are allowed to dictate which team an individual plays on, the protection that women fought for will ultimately dissolve. The fight that has given you and me so many opportunities to learn and grow through sports will suddenly mean nothing anymore, and girls' sports will, in fact, disappear.

We must protect girls' sports.

Thank you.