

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

Statement by Macy Petty

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Young Women for America Ambassador

Delivered March 16, 2022, at the Tennessee

House Education Administration Committee Hearing on HB 2316.

Good morning. My name is Macy Petty, and I am an NCAA scholarshipped volleyball player. Thank you, Chairman White and members of the committee, for hearing HB 2316 and allowing me to share my experience both as an athlete and as an Ambassador of Young Women for America, speaking on behalf of Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee.

My journey in playing women's sports started a long time ago. In elementary, middle, and high school, I competed in volleyball and basketball in both private and public schools. It is because of these opportunities I have the education and experience I have today. I was recruited to my college because of my involvement in high school and club volleyball. This ultimately led to my scholarship and made college a practical part of my journey.

I would not have this chance if it weren't for the brave women back in the early 1970s who fought endlessly for the passage of Title IX. Biological males competing in women's sports would reverse nearly 50 years of momentum for women.

Through my time playing club volleyball, I have had the chance to play my sport against boys. My volleyball club had a men's league, and some clubs let men play on their women's teams. In the rules of volleyball, the standard men's net is seven inches higher than a women's net because of their natural biological ability to jump higher. This obviously made it extremely difficult for us when trying to play on their net. When the boys would come to play with us, I would cover my head scared of them giving me a concussion. It became very obvious to me why we played on separate height nets. Not only could they jump higher, but they were also stronger, and on average, much taller.

Men are born naturally more athletic, and their sports reflect this. The difference in height between the nets is not due to sexuality, identity, or anything else except for biological truth. If you are born male, you have the genetic advantages that come with being male. These

advantages do not change with personality. These advantages do not change with identity. These advantages are carried with them to the opposite playing field against the women fighting for a chance to play.

I would like to tell you about the time in high school my club team played against a women's team with a male athlete. Yes, we were forced to play against a team with a boy as a member, and he was a star of the game.

He ran the court and had college recruiters from all over watching him slam the ball in our faces. He was playing on a net seven inches shorter than it should have been for him as a male and against girls with an average height of 5'4." This was unfair and unjust. I did not sign up to be in a co-ed league.

But this is larger than my personal story.

As an Ambassador for Young Women for America, I am here on behalf of young women across this state who know that girls' sports are for girls only. When we elevate feelings over reality, it is women and girls who are the losers.

Tomorrow, Lia Thomas, a male identifying as a female, will be competing in the NCAA Division 1 Championship at Georgia Tech University. To get to that level, Lia displaced numerous female athletes, sidelining their careers and taking away collegiate and scholarship opportunities. For the three years prior to today, Lia competed on the men's team and placed No. 462 nationally. Today, Lia ranks number one and is crushing female athletes' times by 38 seconds.

If I do not speak up today, future generations will not have women's sports. Future generations will lose the chance to experience the life-changing and empowering opportunities that are brought by women's sports.

If males get to decide at their whim to compete on girls' teams, the line between men's and women's sports, which is there to protect women physically, academically, and financially, will ultimately dissolve. The line that protects what women fought for nearly 50 years ago. The line that has given women so many opportunities to compete and train in the sport they love so much. The line that gave me the educational opportunities I have today and the line that allows your daughters their rightful opportunities to succeed on and off the court.

I urge you to protect women's sports.

Please support HB 2316. Thank you.