

CONCERNED
WOMEN *for* AMERICA
LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

**Press Conference Statement
Fairness in Women's Sports
Dilonna Coran, State Director
June 7, 2022**

Good afternoon. I am Dilonna Coran, State Director of Concerned Women for America of Pennsylvania speaking for Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee.

As the nation's largest public policy women's organization in the nation and our state, Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee is on the frontline of the fight to protect our status as women and the rights of female athletes to fair competition.

I am here today representing CWA of Pennsylvania members across this state who want to see the Fairness in Women's Sports Act passed and signed into law. We want to thank the House sponsors of HB 972 and applaud the House for passing the bill. We now call on the Senate to follow suit and pass HB 972 and send it to Gov. Wolfe for his signature.

It is unfortunate that this bill is even necessary, but what is happening in female athletics today makes it essential. In our own backyard, a biologically male athlete at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) is smashing NCAA women's swimming records. Will Thomas competed on the men's team for three years and then competed as Lia Thomas on the women's team his senior year. Penn press releases are boasting of the wins despite shamefully displacing the true women record holders in their history books. Cases like this are jeopardizing the hopes and dreams of female athletes nationwide and because of that Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee has filed a civil rights complaint against UPenn.

Supporting women in sports is historically a bipartisan position. This morning, CWA of Pennsylvania lobbied for the passage of HB 972 alongside a grassroots woman's organization with contrasting views on many issues, but we have joined hands in our mutual concerns over the threat to girls' sports. Female athletes are being pushed to the sidelines in Pennsylvania and if we do nothing ... nothing will be done.

Sixteen days from now, we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Title IX, which was passed by a Democratic Congress and signed into law by a Republican president. Title IX, which shattered the glass ceiling for women's athletics, was passed to protect the uniqueness of women's sports and was written to protect women, not erase them.

Allowing male-born individuals to participate on an athletic team directly violates Title IX and is discriminatory against girls. Title IX states in part: *“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance ... ”*

Female athletes deserve a fair playing field ... the chance for awards, titles, scholarships, and other opportunities. But they also need safety and privacy. The failure to pass the Fairness in Women’s Sports Act not only impacts the female in the swimming pool, in the gym, or on a track. It impacts those same female athletes who are now being forced to share locker rooms with male-born athletes. Look around me today. These young athletes are being forced to share a locker room with male-born athletes parading as trans-women.

Our daughters, our granddaughters, and our nieces in Pennsylvania deserve better.

It is a crucial time in women’s sports. It’s time to protect women. It’s time for Pennsylvania to sign into law the Fairness in Women’s Sports Act.