

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

YOUNG WOMEN FOR AMERICA

Statement by Noelle Fitchett

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Senate State Affairs Committee Hearing on SB 15

I would like to thank state Senator Mayes Middleton for presenting S.B. 15. and for the opportunity to appear before you today. My name is Noelle Fitchett, and I am a former athlete, Texas A&M Aggie, granddaughter of proud Texans, and an ambassador for Young Women for America, a project of Concerned Women for America, the nation's largest public policy women's organization.

Over these past few years, I have witnessed the injustice towards women in our sports and the increasing effort to erase women and the opportunities we have desperately fought to receive.

As a former high school soccer player and competitive dancer, I am thankful for the current Texas law that protects girls' sports by ensuring biological males cannot compete on female teams in K-12 education. Women should be protected at every level, including college.

I am here to advocate for future generations of girls and women who deserve a fighting chance at a fair and successful athletic career. After decades of fighting for equality, it is incomprehensible to me that we again have to defend women's most basic civil rights of equal opportunity and protection.

I am here as a woman who believes that superficial characteristics or personal expressions do not define womanhood. Rather, we are defined by our distinct, immutable biological differences and the dignity ascribed to us by God.

Women could not compete in high school or college athletics a few generations ago. The historic Title IX civil rights law allows us to see female athletes pursuing their dreams. The protections afforded to us as women in 1972 are now at risk of being obliterated again by prioritizing biological males and their personal identities over women.

As the older sister of three younger brothers, I know that their physical capabilities surpass my own. Despite the amount of grit or passion I may have, my physical capabilities cannot compare to theirs. My brothers are taller, faster, and naturally stronger. I cannot imagine competing against them in sports.

There is a strong correlation between women who compete in sports and their high career achievement levels. Women's sports are empowering. When we allow men self-identifying as women to compete in women's sports, there is a crushing feeling of defeat before the game, race, or match has begun

Acknowledging the fundamental biological differences, specifically the physical advantages of males over females, is not hateful. Some advocates have argued that "women's sports thrive when trans-inclusive policies are in place." This claim is entirely false, as we have seen collegiate athletes such as Lia Thomas, a biological male, rise from ranking No. 462 as a male swimmer to ranking No. 1 after switching from the men's to the women's swim team.

In 2022, because Thomas competed in the NCAA D1 Women's Swimming and Diving Championships, Virginia Tech's Reka Gyorg was denied a spot in the 500-yard freestyle finals. University of Virginia's Emma Weyant was robbed of her rightfully earned first-place title. Young Women for America witnessed this injustice first hand when we rallied outside Georgia Tech's natatorium a year ago this week. The emotional impact on parents, athletes, and coaches was crushing.

Without sex-based sports categories, female athletes will no longer have equal opportunities in sports. Men are faster, have larger hearts and lungs, increased muscle mass and strength, stronger bones and different skeletal structures, and are inherently more competitive and aggressive.

Studies have shown a 10-12% performance gap between elite male and female athletes. In 2017, Olympic, World, and U.S. Champion Tori Bowie's 100 meters lifetime best of 10.78 seconds was beaten 15,000 times by men and boys.

Policies that allow biological males to compete in women's sports are an injustice to women. The physical advantage of biological males ignores the countless hours of training, sacrifice, and dedication made by female athletes who have trained, some such as myself, since the age of 3.

I would like to thank state Senator Mayes Middleton again on behalf of thousands of women across America for being a voice for justice and true equality for women. Every woman in America deserves the opportunity to compete in fair sports.

Allowing men in women's sports is an outrage and a betrayal of women's rights. This is discrimination toward women in the 21st century. This is an attack on the progress we have made as a society, an attack on science, on women, and who God created us to be.

I urge advocates and legislators to ask themselves, will they be the voice for women facing this injustice, or will they turn a blind eye to this discrimination? If we do not protect female sports by acknowledging the beautiful differences God created between men and women, there will be no female title holders, college champions, or world champions.

It is for these reasons that Senate Bill 15 should be passed in order to protect the integrity of female college athletics. Thank you.