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

## YOUNG WOMEN FOR AMERICA

**NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships in Virginia Beach, Virginia**

**March 8, 2024**

My name is Kylee Alons, and I am a Young Women for America Ambassador. I swam collegiately for NC State until 2023. I am a 31x All-American, 2x NCAA Champion, and 5x ACC Champion. I know what it's like to be on this national stage competing, and am deeply saddened that these women are facing the same hostile environment and insulting experience that I had almost two years ago at the 2022 NCAA DI swimming championships.

The NCAA championships are the biggest meet of the year; the meet that everyone aspires to be invited to, the one that you think about when you are tired and need to push through hard training, the one where the team contest is the most daunting yet exhilarating. I came into these championships excited and eager to perform for my team, but I also came in with stress and anxiety because I knew, for the first time in my life, that I would have to compete with a man. After a stressful prelims, I felt simultaneously fortunate that I was still able to make the finals but also brokenhearted that there were women who deserved to be in the A and B finals but had their rightful lanes stolen from them by Lia Thomas, a male. In the end, I was beaten by Lia Thomas. However, what bothered me more than this loss was the uncomfortable situation that I faced in the locker room at that meet. I competed at an elite level and was racing world-class swimmers, but was thrown into a stressful situation I never should have been in where I had to change into a skin-tight racing swimsuit in front of a man. As a swimmer, our racing suits take up to 30 minutes to get on, and I covered myself with a towel and parka while I changed in the locker room.

I ended up finding a storage closet behind my team's bleachers and changed in there for the rest of the meet in order to avoid the stress of changing in front of the opposite sex. The NCAA didn't care, and they never even warned us that we would be sharing the locker room with a male, despite the obvious infringement of our rights under Title IX. While I was frustrated and insulted by this situation and struggled to maintain focus for my events, the NCAA celebrated 50 years of Title IX. I was stunned at the irony of the NCAA acting as if they championed women's sports when, in reality, they were doing the exact opposite.

So many women share my experience and feelings on this matter, and we have spoken up despite being shunned and ignored. Unless the NCAA steps in immediately, there will be women today who are robbed of their achievements and put in situations that violate their privacy and safety. At this point, it seems like the NCAA will turn a blind eye once more. I'm really tired of seeing this experience play out again and again, and will continue to stand up until women are given the fairness and respect that they deserve. It has been nearly two years since the championship that I competed in, and the NCAA has never apologized to me and all of the other swimmers who competed who were forced to share a locker room with Lia Thomas. They will not apologize for the hostile environments that they continue to foster, and even worse yet, they refuse to revise their policies to protect women's sports.

I am proud to stand here with Young Women for America and other incredible organizations to remind the NCAA and Charlie Baker that our request has not been discussed, and that women's sports deserve protection immediately. We will not let our female athletes at every level be forced into storage closets because their privacy has been removed. We will not allow men to be authorized to take women's opportunities and tamper with the safety and fairness of women's competition. The NCAA is an organization that is given the responsibility to protect and promote collegiate athletics, and that includes women's sports, and we will hold them accountable to their cowardly behavior of ignoring, silencing, and displacing women.