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LD 1337

As I read it, the goal of alterations made to LD 1337 do not seek to meaningfully protect women in so much as they intend to further alienate and harm trans women. All reasons to ban trans women and trans girls from spaces and groups for women from come back to the same idea: trans people should not feel welcome. Everyone pearl clutches about the trans girl who has a “biological advantage” in athletics. Have we considered the other advantages at play? The social value placed on male sports in which the trans girl was previously playing is better funded and cared about leading to accelerated skills. The advantage wealthy athletes have over those who can’t afford personal training and quality equipment. The natural variations in height, speed, muscles that occur along the spectrum of humans not due to their sex but due to any number of genetic factors. If the concerns about inequity in sports was serious, we would be looking at all the impacting factors. But this is a very unserious argument. The goal of these changes is to further oppress trans women and isolate them, other then, and start the hate for them at a young age. There are a handful of trans women and girl who have been forced to be the face of this argument. Famously, trans swimmer Lea Thomas was made a household name because people sought to make a spectacle of this trans woman pushing a “real woman” like Riley Gaines from victory. What popular media fails to make clear is that both of those women were furthermore beat out by four cis woman swimmers. Lea Thomas and Riley Gaines tied for 5th place in a race. After that race, Riley Gaines became a well-paid conservative media darling lambasting trans people (a stance she never previously took) whenever given the chance from platforms like Fox News to the White House. Lea Thomas? Unable to live the quiet life she sought post-college because Riley Gaines rakes in cash every time she says Lea’s name and misconstrues their shared experience. This in not an uncommon experience for trans athletes. You only ever hear about them when they’re being burned at the social pyre. “Oh but if we allow trans athletes to participate in sports, men will just say they’re trans and dominate the women’s categories!” is such a hollow argument. Where are all these men? Have we found them invading women’s sports? Do they actually exist? Or do we just have a handful of trans girls and women trying to live their lives and enjoy the same experiences as their peers? Is the goal of removing trans women from women’s spaces anything but to ostracize? If you want to make spaces and groups for women equitable and safe, make them equitable and safe at their core with adequate funding. Don’t kick a few people out and call it equity. Don’t build walls and fear and disdain where you could build community.