

My name is Katherine Collins and I am a former track athlete, and marathoner, a current road racer, a USATF official, and a mother. Two of my children currently run in high school track and another is an America East conference champion as of this week, so I have extensive knowledge about cross country and track.

Men are obviously biologically stronger and faster than women, every single women's world record in track and field is broken every year by hundreds of 14 and 15 year old boys. Over 1800 people have run under 4 minutes in the mile, but not a single one of them was a woman. These statistics explicitly show the biological advantage men have over women in sports. The sole reason we have women's sports at all is to give women the opportunity to compete, because in the not-so-distant past and now if this injustice continues, we will have no women's sports- all the records, medals, team spots will all be held by men.

Currently the feelings of two males are considered a priority in Maine, the dignity and safety of thousands of girls are being denied. As a parent, I have seen the tears, the anger, the frustration from girls as these males stole podium spots, medals, awards, records, and opportunities to compete at New Englands from deserving girls. As an official, I have to follow very specific rules to make sure each competition is fair for all athletes, but that efforts is pushed aside when males are allowed in girl's sports with lighter shots and discs, and with every cell in their bodies giving them a distinct advantage.

The two boys who are currently competing in Maine girl's sports do not do well athletically when compared to their biological peers, but when each switched to competing against girls, both suddenly won every meet and both won state titles- if nothing else, this shows how unfair this policy is as it stands.

Historically, women's spaces that involve nudity have been private. Women do not feel comfortable or safe with men present because women are smaller and more vulnerable and many men simply have a tendency to act in a predatory fashion, especially in a private space. There are many cases of rape and assault by men pretending to be women in women's spaces over the past decade, a simple google search brings up pages and pages of examples.

Maine simply needs to amend state law and become compliant with federal law, including Title IX. We need to restrict female sports, locker rooms, and restrooms to women only to protect the dignity and ensure fairness for all Maine women and girls.