

Good morning, everyone; my name is Lucy Cheney and I am a follower of Christ as well as a sophomore at Presque Isle High School. I qualified for the state track meet as a freshman and the times that I run are nowhere close to the times run by male athletes.

I am someone who has put their utmost effort into their athletics and has worked tirelessly to build strength, discipline and confidence through sports. I began to question if all that effort matters when transgender athletes are allowed to compete in women's sports. Athletics teach you to lead, lose with dignity and win with humility.

The playing field has become no longer level. Our efforts should be measured against others who share our same starting line. The future that sports has promised us is lost when unfairness comes into the picture. It's disempowering – I want a fair fight, but I want a chance to do so.

I believe we can have compassion and fairness. I believe there are solutions that can honor the rights of everyone without erasing the hard work and dreams of female athletes.