

Good morning, everyone.

My name is Carrlyn Buck and I am a student at Presque Isle High School. Today I want to talk about how female athletes can feel discouraged when asked to compete against transgender athletes who were born male. This issue isn't about hate or exclusion — it's about fairness and the mental and emotional impact on young women in sports.

Imagine training for years — early mornings, long practices, strict diets — only to find yourself competing against someone with clear biological advantages in speed, strength, or size. It's not just about losing a race or a match; it's about losing hope. When the playing field isn't equal, it sends a message to girls that no matter how hard they try, the outcome may already be decided.

Many female athletes have spoken out, not out of anger, but out of frustration. They've watched opportunities for titles, recognition, and even scholarships slip away — not because they didn't work hard enough, but because they were asked to compete under unfair conditions.

We need to listen to these voices. Supporting women in sports means protecting their right to fair competition. It means giving them a reason to keep training, to stay confident, and to believe that their best effort truly matters.

Thank you.