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Protecting Cassidy Carlisle – And Every Girl Like Her

Cassidy Carlisle didn't ask to become a symbol. She didn't set out to join a national debate. She just wanted to be a kid—an athlete, a student, a daughter—who could play sports, change for gym class, and go to school in peace. But what happened to Cassidy is something every parent in America should hear loud and clear: her voice was ignored, her safety was sidelined, and her basic dignity as a young woman was sacrificed on the altar of political correctness.

In seventh grade, Cassidy entered a locker room expecting privacy. Instead, she found a situation that made her profoundly uncomfortable. A biological male, identifying as female, was there—changing, undressing, and sharing that intimate space. Cassidy did what any thoughtful, respectful girl would do: she turned to the adults in the room.

But, She felt silenced. She felt betrayed. She felt *her discomfort didn't matter*.

That moment was not about hatred. It wasn't about politics. It was about a child seeking protection and being told she would be penalized—marked late to class—if she tried to protect her own privacy.

Let's say this plainly: no girl should ever have to choose between her education and her sense of safety. No girl should be told to suppress her voice so someone else can feel validated. Compassion does not mean crushing others. Inclusion should never come at the cost of someone else's dignity.

Well, today we are.

Cassidy Carlisle is not just one girl from Presque Isle, Maine. She is *every girl* who has felt unheard. She is every daughter, every sister, every young woman who has walked into a locker room, onto a sports field, or into a classroom and silently wondered if she was safe, if she was seen, if anyone would speak up.

We don't empower girls by asking them to give up what makes them girls. We don't achieve fairness by pretending that biology doesn't matter. We don't build a just society by making young women feel like strangers in their own spaces.

Cassidy spoke up, and that took courage. In a world that shames dissent and punishes those who question the new orthodoxy, it is no small thing for a teenager to speak from the heart. And for that, she has been mocked, minimized, and marginalized by some.

But let me say this with absolute clarity: Cassidy Carlisle is not the problem. The problem is a system that has forgotten how to protect our daughters. A system that has made girls invisible in the name of progress. A system that tells young women they are selfish for wanting what generations before them fought so hard to secure—privacy, fairness, and equality.

This isn't about politics. It's about principles. It's about restoring the balance between inclusion and protection. It's about recognizing that rights can come into conflict—and when they do, we have a moral obligation to find solutions that don't silence one group for the comfort of another.

We can and must do better. Not just for Cassidy, but for every girl in every locker room, every team huddle, every classroom across this country. We must create policies that are thoughtful, respectful, and rooted in reality—not ideology.

Cassidy stood up. Now it's time we stand with her.