

Katie Garnett
Steuben
LD 868

My name is Katie Garnett and I am writing in regards to LD 868.

I played sports through my school career and have two daughters that will be entering school soon. I hope that they will feel comfortable to play sports. I am writing to urge you to protect my girls. Protect their rights, and uphold the standard for which our country has set. Give them the same opportunities that boys have. That is the intent of having biologically separate teams.

Sports are important, and I do believe every child deserves to play, but every child should play for the team that they are biologically designed to play. Trans athletes are a very small population which I recognize, and am repeatedly told. With that being said in this past year alone we have seen no less than 3 wins go to biological males in just track and field. That is one sport, and one school year. That pushes 3 girls down the line for each of these wins. So at a minimum 9 girls lost out in placement on this one sport, in one school year. And that doesn't take into account any ranking of overall standings at the state level.

Many of these young women have spoken out against this and find it unfair. Their voices matter. Why do they get to be silenced and made to feel badly about their feelings. That's why title IX was originally created because biological females often were not given these opportunities.

Again all athletes deserve to play and play in an environment they feel is safe. I have seen many testimonies from young women in our state who have stated biological men in their bathrooms and changing rooms make them feel uncomfortable and unsafe. Their voices matter.

As someone who has been sexually assaulted as a teenager I want you to understand that a biological male being in my changing room would have been something that may have at the least triggered a panic attack or even had me quit playing all together. That does not mean that I believe trans-women to be predators, that is just the reality that a male body can make me feel unsafe. This is not an experience that is unique to me I assure you.

Please consider how you are going to vote. Do we tell girls their voices matter less, their comfort matters less, or do we tell them that they matter too.