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Public Opinion Says We Should Protect Women's Sports

Delegate Kathy Szeliga will reintroduce Save Women's Sports Bill

For Immediate Release - June 26, 2023, Baltimore County – Recent national polling shows the public wants to protect women's sports by ensuring that only biological women can compete against women and use women's locker rooms. "Competitive sports allow girls to earn scholarships, medals, and records. Fairness and safety are jeopardized when biological men are allowed to compete in these elite competitions," said Delegate Kathy Szeliga. "We've seen girls lose at the podium, and also opportunities for collegiate athletics, because biological men have taken their medals," Szeliga stated.

In a recent national [Gallup poll](#), 69% of people said that athletes should be allowed to play on sports teams that match their birth gender. This is up by seven percentage points from 2021, and only 26% of those polled believe that biological males should be allowed to compete on women's teams; this is down from 34% when asked in 2021. The public is moving strongly towards protecting women's sports.

On April 20, 2023, the U.S. House passed the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act by a vote of 219-203. And last week, the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee also held hearings on transgender sports. National figure, Riley Gaines, a swimmer forced to compete against Lia Thomas, a biological male, offered strong testimony to lawmakers in collegiate swimming. "In addition to being forced to give up our awards and our titles and our opportunities, the NCAA forced me and my female swimmers to share a locker room with Thomas, a 6'2", 22-year-old male, equipped with and exposing male genitalia," said Riley Gaines in her passionate testimony.

A high school girl in California lost to a biological boy in skiing this year. Four Connecticut track athletes have a [lawsuit working through the courts](#) saying that allowing males to compete in the girl's category creates an unfair playing field and violates Title IX. The movement to Save Women's Sports includes women from all walks of life and political persuasions. The Women's Liberation Front (WOLF), Independent Women's Forum, Save Women's Sports, Independent Council on Women's Sports (ICONS), and other groups are working nationwide to protect women's sports. Last week was the 51st anniversary of Title IX legislation that guarantees women and girls the right to equal athletic opportunities. Some are asking Congress to pass a joint resolution officially establishing National Women's Sports Week.

At least 21 states have passed legislation protecting girls' sports in K-12 for biological girls, and more than 30 states have seen legislation introduced. Delegate Kathy Szeliga vows to introduce the Save Women's Sports bill once again. Szeliga's bill (2023 HB359) limits JV and Varsity high school sports teams to biological women. It is silent on recreational sports and collegiate sports. "We must ensure girls have every opportunity to fairness, safety, as well as access to higher level competition, and my bill will do that," Szeliga commented.

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