

OUR BODIES, OUR SPORTS

January 11, 2024

To President Charlie Baker and the NCAA Board of Governors:

We write on behalf of a coalition of women's organizations to demand that the NCAA meet with female athletes adversely affected by its discriminatory practice of allowing male athletes on women's teams.

Without single-sex competition there can be no equal athletic opportunity. The NCAA knows this, yet it continues to propagate a policy that allows male athletes on women's teams, even as international sports governing bodies and state legislatures increasingly reject these unjust and inequitable policies that harm female athletes.

Over the past year, these harms became more apparent as two more women's swim teams suffered in Virginia and New Jersey, the latter witnessing titles and records fall to a male teammate who switched to the women's squad. If signed, the first male to verbally commit to a women's Division I volleyball program is set to seize a women's full-ride athletic scholarship, breaking another barrier and opening the floodgates for male athletes to acquire financial aid intended for female student-athletes under Title IX. Women's teams are already missing almost \$1.1 billion in athletic scholarship aid, as compared to their male peers, even after 52 years of federal law requiring equality in athletic scholarships.

Female athletes do not accept this; nor do women's advocacy groups from across the political spectrum that represent their interests. These groups include Independent Council on Women's Sports (ICONS), Independent Women's Forum, Women's Liberation Front (WoLF), Champion Women, Women's Sports Policy Working Group, International Consortium on Female Sports (ICFS), Women's Declaration International (WDI-USA), Concerned Women for America, Independent Women's Law Center, Young Women for America, and Independent Women's Network.

We renew our demands to this governing body:

- **Repeal all policies and rules that allow male athletes to take roster spots on women's teams and/or compete in women's events, and**
- **Establish and enforce the right of female athletes to participate in sports based on sex, and**
- **Require its member institutions to provide single-sex locker rooms for female athletes.**

The NCAA has not acted on any of these demands, and instead, women's rights have been further eroded.

Our women's coalition has worked with sports governing bodies and legislative authorities to help them protect female athletes from discrimination and exclusion on the basis of their sex. We are willing and able to share our expertise with the NCAA – if the NCAA wants to renew its commitment to providing equal opportunity for female athletes.

We stand together in honor of the generations of women who came before us and in defense of all the women and girls who will come next.

We look forward to working together with you to preserve women's sports and equal athletic opportunities for female athletes.

Sincerely,

Independent Council on Women's Sports

Marshi Smith, Cofounder, NCAA Swimming
Kim Jones, Cofounder, NCAA Tennis

Independent Women's Forum

Carrie Lukas, President
Riley Gaines, Ambassador, NCAA Swimming
Paula Scanlan, Ambassador, NCAA Swimming
Kim Russell, Ambassador, NCAA Lacrosse (Coach)
Adriana McLamb, Ambassador, NCAA Volleyball

Women's Liberation Front

Sharon Byrne, Executive Director

Women's Sports Policy Working Group

Martina Navratilova, OLY

Champion Women

Nancy Hogshead, J.D., OLY

International Consortium on Female Sports

Linda Blade, Cofounder, NCAA Track & Field

Women's Declaration International–USA

Kara Dansky, President

Concerned Women for America

Penny Nance, CEO and President
Doreen Denny, Senior Advisor
Annabelle Rutledge, Executive Vice President

Independent Women's Law Center

May Mailman, Director
Jennifer C. Bracerias, VP for Legal Affairs

Young Women for America

Kylee Alons, Ambassador, NCAA Swimming
Macy Petty, Ambassador, NCAA Volleyball

Independent Women's Network

Julie Gunlock, Director
Megan Burke, Chapter Leader, NCAA Track & Field



CC:

Charlie Baker, President, National Collegiate Athletics Association; Ex officio member, NCAA Board of Governors

Linda Livingstone, President, Baylor University; Chair, NCAA Board of Governors

Steven Shirley, President, Minot State University; Vice Chair, NCAA Board of Governors

Mary-Beth Cooper, President, Springfield College; Voting Member, NCAA Board of Governors

Houston Davis, President, University of Central Arkansas; Voting Member, NCAA Board of Governors

Beth DeBauch, Commissioner, Ohio Valley Conference; Voting Member, NCAA Board of Governors

Alliston Feaster, Independent; Vice President of Team Operations and Organizational Growth, Boston Celtics; Voting Member, NCAA Board of Governors

Jere Morehead, President, University of Georgia; Voting Member, NCAA Board of Governors

Isaiah Swann, Graduated Division III Student-Athlete; Voting Member, NCAA Board of Governors

Dr. Nadja West, Independent; 44th Surgeon General of the United States Army; Voting Member, NCAA Board of Governors

Javaune Adams-Gaston, President, Norfolk State University; Ex officio member, NCAA Board of Governors