

# Elite Female Athletes Sign Open Letter To Applaud the U.S. House Passage of the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act

April 26, 2023

Dear Members of Congress,

We, the undersigned representing elite female athletes across the United States, applaud the U.S. House passage of the *Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act*, under the leadership of Speaker Kevin McCarthy. We look forward to Senator Tommy Tuberville leading this effort in the United States Senate this week.

More than 50 years ago, Congress enacted Title IX to ensure equal opportunity in all aspects of education, including athletics. Since then, women's sports have made tremendous progress. But without single-sex teams and single-sex competition, men will dominate women in competitive sports where strength, size, or speed are relevant factors. That is because, physiologically, the average male is stronger, bigger, and faster than the average female.

Forcing female athletes, like ourselves, to compete against biological males is not only unfair, it is discriminatory and illegal. Allowing biological males to take awards, roster spots, scholarships, or spots at a school from female athletes violates Title IX's prohibition of discrimination "on the basis of sex." The *Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act* amends Title IX to make that explicitly clear and puts athletic organizations, athletic directors, and bureaucrats at the Department of Education on notice that they may not adopt policies that promote "inclusion" on the backs of women.

We are thankful to Representative Greg Steube and Senator Tuberville for their leadership on this critical issue and commitment to fight for fairness, privacy, and safety for girls and women in sports, and applaud all 219 members of the U.S. House who voted to stand for women. We strongly urge the U.S. Senate to take up this bill with the urgency it deserves.

Respectfully,



## Riley Gaines Barker

*Stand With Women Spokeswoman  
Independent Women's Voice  
Swimming, All-American*

**Adriana McLamb**  
*Volleyball, NCAA*

**Cynthia Monteleone**  
*Track and Field,  
Team USA, Masters*

**Karen Jansen**  
*Golf, LPGA National  
Teacher of the Year*

**Lindsay Shoop**  
*Rowing, Olympian*

**Madisan DeBos**  
*Track & Field, NCAA*

**Payton McNabb**  
*Volleyball*

**Ainsley Erzen**  
*Track, Soccer, NCAA*

**Dianna (DeeDee) Fussner**  
*Professional Disc Golf  
Association (PDGA)  
Female Pro Master 50+  
(FP50)*

**Kathy Watt**  
*Cycling, Olympian*

**Linnea Saltz**  
*Track & Field, NCAA  
Conference Champion*

**Maggie Malone**  
*Track & Field,  
Olympian, NCAA National  
Champion, Elite Athlete*

**Raime Jones**  
*Swimming, NCAA*

**Alanna Smith**  
*Track & Field*

**Evie Edwards**  
*Cross Country, Cyclist*

**Katie McCarthy**  
*Golf, NCAA*

**Lisa L. Rainsberger**  
*Track & Field, Olympian  
Boston Marathon  
Champion*

**Margaret O'neal  
Monteleone**  
*Track & Field*

**Riley Scott**  
*Swimming, All-American*

**Alison Sydor**  
*Cycling, Olympian*

**Haley Tanne**  
*Track and Field, NCAA*

**Kelsey Bolar**  
*Lacrosse, NCAA*

**Lynn Hatcher**  
*Golf, NCAA*

**Margo Knorr**  
*Track & Field, NCAA*

**Sara Younger-Merrill**  
*Rowing, Masters*

**Sarah Powers-Barnhard**  
*Volleyball, NCAA  
All-American, Team USA*

**Annie Grevers**  
*Swimming, NCAA  
Champion*

**Heather Formby**  
*Track and Field*

**Kelly Rickon Mitchell**  
*Rowing, Olympian*

**Macy Petty**  
*Volleyball, NCAA*

**Margot Kaczorowski**  
*Swimming, NCAA*

**Selina Soule**  
*Track & Field, NCAA*

**Annie Kunz**  
*Track & Field, Olympian*

**Holly LaVesser**  
*Cyclist*

**Kim Jones**  
*Tennis, All-American*

**Madelyn Sestak**  
*Volleyball, NCAA*

**Maria Broaddus**  
*Volleyball, NCAA*

**Shannon Keeler**  
*Lacrosse, NCAA  
Champion*

**April Hutchinson**  
*Powerlifting, Professional*

**Inga Thompson**  
*Cycling, Olympian*

**Kimberly Vach**  
*Volleyball, NCAA*

**Maria Blower**  
*Cycling, Olympian*

**Marshi Smith**  
*Swimming, NCAA  
Champion*

**Sheila Young Ochowicz**  
*Speed Skating, Olympian*

**Carol Brown**  
*Rowing, Olympian*

**Jan Palchikoff**  
*Rowing, Olympian*

**Lacey Nymyer**  
*Swimming, Olympian  
NCAA Woman of the Year*

**Mariah Burton Nelson**  
*Basketball, Pro*

**Mary Louise Kellogg  
Lyman**  
*Rowing, Olympian*

**Sue Walsh**  
*Swimming, Olympian,  
NCAA/AIAW National  
Champion*

**Carol Lewis**  
*Track & Field, Olympian*

**Janelle Parks Graham**  
*Cycling, Olympian*

**Lainey Armistead**  
*Soccer, NCAA*

**Marion Clignet**  
*Cycling, Olympian*

**Mary I. O'Connor**  
*Rowing, Olympian*

**Taylor Silverman**  
*Skateboarding,  
Professional*

**Catrina Allen**  
*Disc Golf*

**Jen Hucke**  
*Volleyball, NCAA  
Champion*

**Laura Wilkinson**  
*Diver, NCAA, Olympic,  
and World Champion*

**Mary Forr Szoch**  
*Basketball, NCAA  
National Champion  
Runner-Up*

**Megan Burke**  
*Track & Field, NCAA*

**Valerie McClain**  
*Rowing, Olympian*

**Christina Trucks**  
*Track & Field, NCAA*

**Jeri Shanteau**  
*Swimming, All-American*

**Lauren Bondly**  
*Triathlon Age-Group  
National Champion*

**Mary T. Meagher**  
*Swimming, Olympian*

**Micki King**  
*Diving, Olympian*

**Cindy Rusher**  
*Rowing, Olympian*

**Kacey McKinnon**  
*Lacrosse*

**Nancy Hogshead-Makar**  
*Swimming, Olympian*