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CALIFORNIA · Published May 25, 2023 8:52am EDT

Riley Gaines shares messages of support after trans girl's 2nd-place finish in California meet of champions

Gaines has been at the forefront of the fight to keep women's sports fair and equal



By Ryan Gaydos | Fox News



Riley Gaines: I am fighting for the next generation of female athletes

Former all-American swimmer Riley Gaines argues biological men should not compete against women on 'The Story.'

[Riley Gaines](#), a former NCAA star swimmer at Kentucky who has led the charge in keeping women's sports fair and equal, shared some supportive text messages on Thursday from parents in California.

Controversy erupted in the Golden State over the weekend after a transgender girl runner finished in second place in a sectional Meet of Champions and was propelled to the state championships later this week.

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University of Kentucky swimmer Riley Gaines reacts after finishing tied for 5th with transgender University of Pennsylvania swimmer Lia Thomas in the 200 Freestyle finals at the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships on March 18, 2022 at the McAuley Aquatic Center in Atlanta. (Rich von Biberstein/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images)

Gaines shared messages from parents who reached out to her.

"Just a few of the many messages (I've) received from the girls + their parents in CA whose sport (T&F) is being infiltrated with mediocre men. They feel helpless. How can you read these and think what's happening is okay? (It's) discrimination against women and bullying at its finest," Gaines tweeted.



The anonymous messages called Gaines an "inspiration" and another called transgender participation in women's sports "unfair."

EXCLUSIVE: CALIFORNIA PARENT WHOSE DAUGHTER LOST TO BIOLOGICAL MALE IN GIRLS' TRACK COMPETITION RESPONDS



Former NCAA swimmer Riley Gaines spoke to Congress about an incident on April 6, 2023, when she claims to have been held for ransom at San Francisco State University. (Homeland Security Subcommittee via YouTube)

Athena Ryan [finished in second place](#) in the varsity girls 1,600-meter run finals on Saturday. Ryan of Sonoma Academy finished behind Hanne Thomsen of Montgomery and ahead of Ellie Buckley of Campolindo. Ryan will advance to the California Interscholastic Federation State Track & Field Championships next week.

Ryan, a junior, appeared to undeterred by the protests and controversy. Ryan finished with a 4:55.91 time result. Ryan finished sixth in the 1,600-meter preliminary race and 21st in the girls 800-meter preliminaries.



Riley Gaines speaks during a discussion on transgender athletes in women's sports during a National Girls and Women in Sports day event on Capitol Hill on Tuesday, Feb. 01, 2023, in Washington, D.C. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post via Getty Images)

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Gaines [was on Capitol Hill](#) last week for the unveiling of House Republicans' Women's Bill of Rights legislation. During a press conference Wednesday morning, she explained the bill would define the word "woman" in federal law in order to bolster other bills such as the House's recently passed Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act.

Ryan Gaydos is a senior editor for Fox News Digital.

Conversation 678 Comments

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F

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That thing from Penn had no idea what he was unleashing when he took Riley Gaines' spot on the podium. This young lady is fierce and is not backing down, no matter how much they try to intimidate or harass her. Keep it up, Riley!

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Riley Gaines is exactly the kind of Kentucky Woman Neill Diamond was singing about.

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roadhouse99
13 hours ago

U

...

Our national government, the NIH has stated publicly after doing a research study published in the Daily Mail. It is irrefutable, Biological males even taking hormone suppressors have an unfair physiological advantage. Game over. XX chromosome people only compete against other XX chromosome people ...**See more**

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phideaux

12 hours ago

...

We said it before it's been stated in the news that women need to boycott these events as a whole group. Stand in solidarity and refuse to participate. The events will disappear, the revenue will dry up. Watch how quickly things change when money stops flowing.

Reply · 21 · Share

...

Have you seen the price of tuition now days? Most can't financially afford to boycott. They may want to boycott, but they can't. They're scholarship athletes. They'll be expelled. They can't afford to lose their scholarship, thus drop out of college, or take out student loans.

(Edited)

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saltynuts

12 hours ago

...

M

Riley is a strong woman. We need more like her to stand up. Where are you all?

Reply · 54 · Share

3 replies

LuvLeos

11 hours ago

...

The recent explosion of this phenomenon makes sense, believe it or not. If you're a liberal, you now have the ability, almost overnight and for the price of a Target swimsuit, to transform yourself into the highest pantheon of liberal existence - a victim.

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micky888

13 hours ago



livefree0rdie

13 hours ago

Where are the women? Stop being afraid to speak up. You have been bullied by a vocal minority that often resorts to desperate acts of intimidation. Time to stand up and protect your daughter's future!

(Edited)

Reply · 105 · Share



Where are the women? Out supporting and voting for the politicians that staunchly support trans rights over all others.

Reply · 23 · Share



**M
88bob078**

14 hours ago

Women now stand for a single issue and that is abortion which is still available in most states. I never thought I would see this day when women will not stand up for women's rights across all spectrums.

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SuperGoof788

13 hours ago

Msaudreyb

12 hours ago

...

I think Riley's one statement says it all: Women's sports are being infiltrated by "mediocre men." Guys who could never make it in their own gender's sports are "transitioning" so they can cheat. They're turning women's sports medals into participation awards.

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M

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This is a key distinction - these mediocre men are not elite athletes. However the women **are elite** and at the pinnacle of what is possible in terms of human performance.

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U

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paladinm

13 hours ago

These mediocre men are to borrow a term, Deplorables.

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2 replies

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G

mullenski

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13 hours ago

Thank you, Riley. Your courage is remarkable. You've made my day!

Reply · 12 · Share

S

...

USAisExceptional865

Great job, Riley! Keep it up!

13 hours ago

Reply · 32 · Share

M

guineapigg

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13 hours ago

It's amazing how many women that are for women's rights continue to be silent instead of defending these young ladies right not to have to compete against biological men.

This includes our MIA vice president

screwsjws!

Reply · 69 · Share

13 hours ago

A

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Yeah but do you really want to hear anything from Harris? She is not a role model or someone to ever be looked up to.

Reply · 20 · Share

1 reply

H

chellesadude

...

14 hours ago

Our society has devolved to a point where people are afraid to speak out for fear of repercussions. We've gone back to medieval times where they took your hand or put you in chains for speaking out against those in power. We worked so hard to be able to speak our minds and discuss things openly onl...

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azmike946

14 hours ago

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happytogethertoday

13 hours ago

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