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Trans competition is discriminatory, say teens backed by anti-abortion lawyers

Jun 20 2019 • Written by Vic Parsons



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Selina Soule, one of the girls challenging Connecticut's trans-inclusive athletics policy. (Alliance Defending Freedom)

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Three high-school students in Connecticut have filed a federal discrimination complaint challenging the state's policy of letting trans students compete on sports teams according to their gender identity.

The complaint was filed on behalf of the three girls on Monday (June 17) by the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), a conservative Christian organisation in the US that has also filed over 40 cases against Planned Parenthood.

Their complaint to the US Department of Education alleges that Connecticut's policy violates Title IX, the federal civil-rights law that is meant to ensure students have equal access to opportunities regardless of their sex.

The complaint, which refers to trans girls as "biological males," says that trans athletes should not be allowed to compete in the category corresponding to their gender identity because it's unfair to cisgender girls.

Eliza Byard, executive director of GLSEN, a group dedicated to rights for LGBT+ students, said to CNN, "This is a serious lawsuit brought about by a parent and the Alliance Defending Freedom as part of a broader effort to bar trans students from equal access in sports."

"Trans girls are girls, and they should have access to all parts of school," Byard said.

All three girls making the complaint are teen track athletes. Two are unnamed and the third is Selina Soule.

 $\hat{a} \in \infty$ Girls deserve to compete on a level playing field. Forcing female athletes to compete against boys is grossly unfair and destroys their athletic opportunities, $\hat{a} \in \infty$ said Christiana Holcomb, a lawyer with ADF, in an online statement.

"Title IX was designed to eliminate discrimination against women in education and athletics, and women fought long and hard to earn the equal athletic opportunities that Title IX provides. Allowing boys to compete in girls' sports reverses nearly 50 years of advances for women under this law. We shouldn't force these young women to be spectators in their own sports.â€

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The ADF's mission statement is "defending religious liberty, the sanctity of life, and marriage and family."

Its website says, "The abortion industry has been profiting from the



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deaths of infants for over 40 years," and adds that the "good news" is that "a surging pro-life movement has forced the closure of 75 percent of surgical abortion businesses in America."

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