

Aria Jurovaty  
Manchester, NH

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

**RE: SB 480, relative to participation in school sports programs for female student-athletes**

**To NH Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee,**

Hello, my name is Aria Jurovaty. I am asking you to vote in support of SB 480. I am a local N.H. track and cross-country coach. Today I'm here for all the girl athletes I have coached and will coach in the future. My coaching career began at Central High School in Manchester. I was the head sprint coach for girls and boys for four years. I'm now the head coach for girls track at Memorial High School and head coach for girls cross country at Windham High School.

In 2017, I experienced the interference of biological boys running with biological girls for the first time. At that time, I was still coaching at Manchester Central and was at the New England championship meet with my youngest sister, Katya Levasseur. She had worked very hard that year, like many of her peers, to run at this meet. Unfortunately, the interference of two athletes in the girls 100-meter dash, bumped Katya to 7th place. Katya and many other girls that day were bumped from the finals in the dash, or completely eliminated, due to the unfair advantage of the male opposing athletes. Seeing my own sister experience this issue made me say yes to come speak before you today. As a coach, I always want my athletes to know how much I care and what I will risk speaking on their behalf.

Having coached these athletes has given me experience to come before you today and ask you to please decide to stand with us on this bill. I'm here to be a voice for those girls who feel as if they will not be heard on this issue of justice. The girls who are losing their rightful place on the podium, because they are now being forced to compete against biological boys.

I worry about what girls sports may look like ten or twenty years down the line when we are accepting a roster full of biological male athletes who want to compete against female athletes. I worry about how it will affect our young women, and their confidence, as they lose to a field of young men posing as their peers. We claim to be a country that is for women, for our success and equality. Yet coming before you to help support this bill – a bill that some will oppose, feels as though we have taken giant strides backwards in history leaving Title IX meaningless.

In all the years I have coached female athletes, never would I have imagined I'd be standing before you today pleading for the rights of my athletes to simply compete fairly in their own sports.

I find myself today wondering what I will tell my two month old daughter years from now, when her sport is being unfairly invaded by the opposite sex. What will we tell young girls as parents, coaches, and mentors? I won't let them take a back seat to this issue, I will be their voice now, and I will continue to fight for their rights as girls and women.

Thank you.