OUR BODIES, OUR SPORTS

January 9, 2025

ATTN:

NCAA President Charlie Baker and Members of the NCAA Board of Governors

National Collegiate Athletic Association 700 W. Washington Street P.O. Box 7110 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222

RE: NCAA and Protecting Women's Sports

To President Charlie Baker and Members of the NCAA Board of Governors:

Last January, we wrote to you asking the NCAA to meet with female athletes who were adversely affected by the discriminatory practice of allowing male athletes on women's teams. Since then, thousands of additional female athletes have spoken out, written personal letters to each of you, signed petitions, and joined rallies across the country to urge the NCAA and other entities charged with setting rules for athletic competition to finally take action to protect the women's sporting category for female athletes.

Every day, we see new examples of what happens when men are allowed in competitions meant for women: Women losing out on trophies, scholarships, and roster spots, a heightened risk of injury, and more and more women and girls questioning whether they should continue to play in leagues rigged against them.

Women and girls' interests in fair play and equal opportunity are being pushed aside in favor of the feelings of men. How much longer will you allow this to go on? It is discrimination.

Now is the time for the NCAA to stand up and make clear that they do care about female athletes and recognize that, without single-sex competition, there can be no equal athletic opportunity.

We, the undersigned, represent thousands of female athletes, Olympians, coaches, and women's advocacy groups from across the political spectrum. These groups include Independent Women's Forum, Independent Council on Women's Sports (ICONS), 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 (CWA), Independent Women's Law Center, Young Women for America (YWA), Independent Women's Network.

Our 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.

Today, we write to ask for a seat at the table, to join members of the NCAA Board of Governors for a meeting to discuss the unjust and unfair consequences of current NCAA policies. We will be available in Nashville during your convention and request a listening session.

And we renew our demands to:

- Repeal all policies and rules that allow male athletes to take roster spots on women's teams and/or compete in women's events;
- Establish and enforce the right of female athletes to participate in sports based on sex;
- Revoke any/all records set by male athletes competing in the female category and restore
 the female NCAA sports archives by erasing championship wins and/or individual
 performances that were male-influenced; and
- Require NCAA member institutions to provide single-sex locker rooms for female athletes.

Do not allow another day to pass where women's rights are pushed aside. We cannot witness another season of women forced into a position where they either have to forfeit games or participate in fundamentally unfair and unsafe competitions.

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

Sincerely,

Women's Sports Policy Working Group

Martina Navratilova, OLY Donna de Varona, OLY Nancy Hogshead, J.D., OLY Mariah Burton Nelson, M.P.H. Donna Lopiano, Ph.D. Tracy Sundlun

Independent Women's Forum

Carrie Lukas, *President*Riley Gaines, *Ambassador*

Independent Council on Women's Sports

Kim Jones, Co-Founder Marshi Smith, Co-Founder

Women's Declaration International USA

Elizabeth Chesak, President

Champion Women

Nancy Hogshead, J.D., OLY Founder and CEO

Concerned Women for America

Penny Nance, CEO and President

Women's Liberation Front

Sharon Byrne, *Executive Director*

Independent Women's Voice

Heather Higgins, CEO

Young Women for America

Faith Ozenbaugh, National Director

International Consortium on Female Sport

Linda Blade, Founding Member

Independent Women's Law Center

May Mailman, Director

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