

Newsflash to the ACLU: Boys Are Different Than Girls

In a series of tweets posted on Feb. 3, the ACLU alleged that “trans girls are girls” and that “the idea of sex being rooted in biology is a ‘myth.’”

Yes, the ACLU affirmed, “Biological sex and gender are not binaries,” and “Trans athletes do not have an unfair advantage in sports.” Accordingly, the only reason to deny a trans-identified student the right to play on the sports’ team of his or her choice is “pure discrimination.”

To this I say—with love and compassion to these young people who struggle with their gender identity—this is a lot of bunk.

Of course, boys are different than girls.

Of course, there are biological distinctions.

Of course, males, on average, have biological advantages over females when it comes to strength and size and speed.

That’s why we have girls’ leagues and boys’ leagues, from Little League through college through professional sports.

That’s why we have men’s and women’s competition in the Olympics, and that why we have men’s and women’s world records.

That’s why the fastest mile run by a high school male was (by Alan Webb in 2001) while the fastest mile run by a high school female was (by Katelyn Tuohy in 2018). What an extraordinary gap between the sexes.

That’s why a 17-year-old male cleared 19 feet in the pole vault while the world record for a female of any age stands at a little over 16 feet 5 inches.

That's why there is no comparison in weightlifting records between men and women as "men's ability to produce maximal force and thus levels of limit strength are much greater than those exhibited in women."

This holds true whether we're dealing with 16-year-olds or 26-year-olds. Males are different than females and, when it comes to athletic competition, they have distinct advantages over women.

But of course, that's the case.

You don't need to be a rocket scientist to know all this. You just need common sense. Or do you actually think that an all-star team from the WNBA could compete with a team of the worst players in the NBA?

Someone might say, "But over a period of time, when a trans woman has been on hormone treatments for a period of years, those advantages disappear."

Actually, those advantages might lessen, but they do not all disappear, unless you think that a 6-foot, 8-inch male who identifies as female will lose five inches in height after years of hormone therapy. Or unless you think that a male's additional body and muscle mass will completely vanish with enough hormones (especially if that person is an athlete who continues to exercise).

Last December, the *British Journal of Sports Medicine* released a major study on the "effect of gender affirming hormones on athletic performance in transwomen and transmen: implications for sporting organizations and legislators."

What were the results? "Prior to gender affirming hormones, transwomen [meaning biological males who identify as females] performed 31% more push-ups and 15% more sit-ups in 1 min and ran 1.5 miles 21% faster than their female counterparts. After 2 years of taking feminizing hormones, the push-up and sit-up

differences disappeared but transwomen were still 12% faster. Prior to gender affirming hormones, trans men [meaning biological females who identify as males] performed 43% fewer push-ups and ran 1.5 miles 15% slower than their male counterparts. After 1 year of taking masculinizing hormones, there was no longer a difference in push-ups or run times, and the number of sit-ups performed in 1 min by transmen exceeded the average performance of their male counterparts."

Based on these findings, the study questioned whether the Olympics' standard of a one-year waiting period for a trans-identified athlete was sufficient.

But this is actually a moot point when it comes to children's sports, since many, if not most, of the students in question are not taking hormonal drugs. In other words, a "trans girl" has all the physical advantages of a male, which is why boys who competed poorly against other boys are now coming in first when competing against girls.

As I and other have repeated for years, this is not a question of discrimination. It is a question of fairness.

In the words of a high school senior who missed out on her chance to go to the state track finals because she was beaten by two biological boys, "It's coming down to common sense and realizing that men are physically superior to women. That's just science. It's not subjective. It's objective."

As she said in a viral video, "When I'm at the start of the race, when I'm lining up and getting into my blocks, everyone already knows the outcome. Those two athletes are going to come one and two and everyone knows it."

That's because they are biological males running against biological females. Boys are simply different than girls.

That's why a 2017 study conducted by researchers in the molecular genetics department of the Weizmann Institute

discovered that of the 20,000 genes analyzed, “6,500 of them are expressed differently in men and women in at least one of the body’s tissues.”

To say this is not to deny the existence of intersex individuals who have biological or chromosomal abnormalities. Nor is it to minimize the internal struggles experienced by many who identify as transgender.

But it is to say that biology is not bigotry and that it is outright discrimination against women and girls to force them to compete against biological males.

That’s a simple fact of life whether the ACLU likes it or not.
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