

# STATEMENT

Mary Peltola voted to allow biological men to compete in women's sports, use girls' locker rooms, and stay in women's domestic violence shelters.

## VERIFICATION

### Protecting Women's Sports

#### **Peltola Avoided Answering If Transgender Athletes Should Compete In Sports**

**In August 2022, Peltola Gave “A Nuanced Answer” When Asked If “Transgender Athletes Should Be Allowed To Compete In The Sport According To The Gender They Identify With.”**

“On whether transgender athletes should be allowed to compete in the sport according to the gender they identify with, Peltola gave the paper a nuanced answer: ‘My starting point is that sports should be fair for all students, and we must protect the rights of all students — especially those that are already subject to significant discrimination.’” (Azi Paybarah, “Who Is Mary Peltola, The First Alaska Native In Congress?,” [The Washington Post](#), 8/31/22)

- **Peltola Claimed She Needed “To Better Acquaint [Herself] With The Issue.”** “Should transgender athletes be allowed to compete in sports according to the gender with which they identify?” PELTOLA: “I need to better acquaint myself with this issue, which I believe is more complicated than some make it out to be. My starting point is that sports should be fair for all students, and we must protect the rights of all students – especially those that are already subject to significant discrimination. I look forward to learning more, and focusing on the many other pressing challenges the U.S. Congress is facing.” (“Candidate Q&A: U.S. House – Mary Peltola,” [Anchorage Daily News](#), 8/7/22)

#### **Peltola Voted Against A Bill To Ban Transgender Participation On Sports Teams That Received Federal Funds**

**On April 20, 2023, Peltola Voted Against The Protection Of Women And Girls In Sports Act That Would Ban Transgender Participation On Women Sport Teams That Receive Federal Funds.** “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would effectively ban transgender women and girls from competing on women's athletic teams that receive federal funds. It would specifically amend existing prohibitions on sex discrimination in federally funded (Title IX) educational programs to also prohibit such programs from allowing persons ‘whose sex is male’ to participate in athletic programs designed for girls or women. It would specify that, for the purposes of the bill, a sex is “based solely on a person’s reproductive biology and genetics at birth.” The bill would allow Title IX programs to permit males to train or practice with an athletic program designed for girls or women as long as no female is deprived of any benefit of participation, such as a place on a team, scholarship, or the ability to participate in a practice or competition.” (H.R. 734, [Roll Call Vote #192](#): Passed 219-203; R 219-0; D 0-203; 4/20/23, Peltola Voted Nay; [CQ Summary](#), Accessed 5/5/23)

- **The Protection Of Women And Girls In Sports Act “Makes It A Violation Of Title IX For Federally Funded Education Programs To Allow People Assigned Male At Birth To Participate In Athletic Programs Designed For Women.”** “House Republicans passed a GOP-backed bill blocking transgender girls and women from participating in school athletic programs for females. The legislation, called the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, makes it a violation of Title IX for federally funded education programs to allow people assigned male at birth to participate in athletic programs designated for women. It prohibits federal funding to institutions that allow people assigned male at birth to participate on women's sports teams or in events. It passed in the House 219-203 along party-line votes.” (Rachel Looker, “House Passes GOP Bill Blocking Transgender Girls And Women From Participating In School Sports,” [USA Today](#), 4/20/23)
  - **The Enactment Of Title IX “Opened Doors And Removed Barriers” For Women Leading To A 1,057 Percent Increase In High School And 614 Percent In Collegian**

**Sports Participation.** “The impact of Title IX on women’s sports is significant. The law opened doors and removed barriers for girls and women, and while female athletes and their sports programs still have fewer teams, fewer scholarships, and lower budgets than their male counterparts, since Title IX’s passage, female participation at the high school level has grown by 1057 percent and by 614 percent at the college level. The impact of Title IX stretches into professional sports as well. More opportunities have emerged for young women to turn their sport into their career, particularly in the WNBA. Collegiate and professional coaching opportunities have increased as well.” (“Title IX’s Impact,” [Billie Jean King](#), Accessed 5/5/23)

- **Former High Level Female Athletes Have Argued The Bill Would Protect Women Sports By Blocking Biological Males From Taking “Awards, Roster Spots, Scholarships, Or Spots At A School From Female Athletes.”** “We, the undersigned representing elite female athletes across the United States, applaud the U.S. House passage of the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, under the leadership of Speaker Kevin McCarthy. We look forward to Senator Tommy Tuberville leading this effort in the United States Senate this week. More than 50 years ago, Congress enacted Title IX to ensure equal opportunity in all aspects of education, including athletics. Since then, women’s sports have made tremendous progress. But without single-sex teams and single-sex competition, men will dominate women in competitive sports where strength, size, or speed are relevant factors. That is because, physiologically, the average male is stronger, bigger, and faster than the average female. Forcing female athletes, like ourselves, to compete against biological males is not only unfair, it is discriminatory and illegal. Allowing biological males to take awards, roster spots, scholarships, or spots at a school from female athletes violates Title IX’s prohibition of discrimination ‘on the basis of sex.’ The Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act amends Title IX to make that explicitly clear and puts athletic organizations, athletic directors, and bureaucrats at the Department of Education on notice that they may not adopt policies that promote ‘inclusion’ on the backs of women. We are thankful to Representative Greg Steube and Senator Tuberville for their leadership on this critical issue and commitment to fight for fairness, privacy, and safety for girls and women in sports, and applaud all 219 members of the U.S. House who voted to stand for women. We strongly urge the U.S. Senate to take up this bill with the urgency it deserves.” (Riley Gaines Barker, [Letter To Congress](#), “Elite Female Athletes Sign Open Letter To Applaud The U.S. House Passage Of The Protection Of Women And Girls In Sports Act,” 4/26/23)

**On April 20, 2023, Peltola Voted Against An Amendment To Require A Study On The Effects Of Transwomen Participation In Women Sports Has On Ciswomen.** “Mace, R-S.C., amendment no. 1 that would require the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study and submit a report to Congress on the psychological, developmental, participatory and sociological effects that permitting trans women to participate in women's and girls' sports has on cis women.” (H. Amdt No. 1 to H.R. 734, [Roll Call Vote #190](#); Passed 216-205; R 216-3; D 0-202; 4/20/23, Peltola Voted No; [CQ Summary](#), Accessed 5/5/23)

**Peltola Cosponsored The Equality Act.** (H.R. 15, [Congress.gov](#), Accessed 9/3/24)

**“It Explicitly Lists ‘Shelters’ — Which Means That Women Fleeing Domestic Violence Could Be Forced To Reside In Shelters With Men.”** “Last week, the Equality Act was reintroduced with the co-sponsorship of every Democrat in the House and every Senate Democrat except Joe Manchin of West Virginia. The bill alters the status quo by adding ‘transgender status’ and ‘sexual orientation’ as classes protected under the 1964 Civil Rights Act’s Title II, which prohibits discrimination at public accommodations. It also greatly expands the number of businesses that count as ‘public accommodations’ under the act. For example, it explicitly lists ‘shelters’ — which means that women fleeing domestic violence could be forced to reside in shelters with men — and ‘salons,’ which would clearly cover waxing businesses.” (John McCormack, “All House Democrats Back Bill To Allow Men Who Identify As Women Into Women’s Locker Rooms,” [National Review](#), 6/28/23)