SPORTS

High school volleyball player says she suffered concussion after being injured by trans athlete, calls for ban

Payton McNabb urged state lawmakers to pass legislation protecting girls' sports

By Paulina Dedaj · Fox News

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Injured athlete reveals how dangerous it is to let biological males compete against girls

Female athletes Payton McNabb and Riley Gaines speak out on 'The Ingraham Angle' against allowing transgender competitors in women's sports.

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A North Carolina high school volleyball player said she suffered significant and long-term physical and mental injuries last fall when she was spiked in the face by a transgender athlete who was able to compete on a girls' team because of a policy put in place by the state's high school athletic association.

Payton McNabb, a senior at Hiwassee Dam High School in Murphy, N.C., spoke out for the first time about her injuries on Wednesday during a press conference where she called on state legislators to pass the Fairness in Women's Sports Act that would prohibit biological males from competing on girls' sports teams, citing her own experience.

Volleyball on Wood Floor

"Due to the North Carolina High School Athletic Association policy of allowing biological males to compete against biological females my life has forever been changed," McNabb said.

> **Riley Gaines** @Riley_Gaines_ · Follow
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> Watch the clip of Payton McNabb getting spiked in the face by a male competing with the women. Then watch her testimony she gave today for the first time publicly. I was honored to stand alongside her in NC to continue the fight to protect women's sports.
>
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CAITLYN JENNER CALLS JOE BIDEN'S TITLE IX PROPOSAL AN ATTEMPT TO 'DESTROY WOMEN'S SPORTS'

"On Sept. 1, 2022, I was severely injured in a high school volleyball game by a transgender athlete on the opposing team. I suffered from a concussion and a neck injury that to this day I am still recovering from. Other injuries I still suffer from today include impaired vision, partial paralysis on my right side, constant headaches, as well as anxiety and depression."

McNabb said she was unable to compete in her final season, and while she currently plays for her school's softball team, she's unable to "perform as well as I have in the past," due to her injuries.

Transgender rights advocates stood outside the Ohio Statehouse to oppose and bring attention to an amendment to a bill that would ban transgender women from participating in high school and college women sports (Stephen Zenner/SOPA Images/LightRocket via Getty Images)

"My ability to learn, retain, [and] comprehend has also been impaired, and I require accommodations at school for testing because of this."

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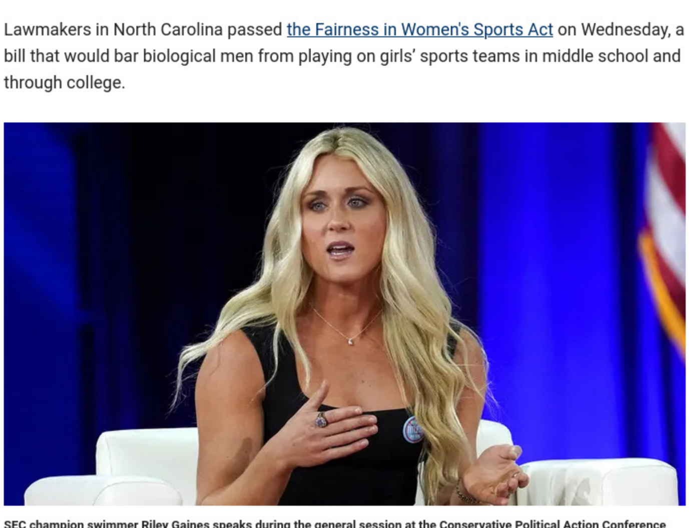
McNabb acknowledged that while her athletic career is nearing its end, her purpose for speaking out about the incident now serves a larger purpose.

"I'm here for every biological female athlete behind me. My little sister, my cousins, my teammates. Allowing biological males to compete against biological females is dangerous. I may be the first to come before you with an injury, but if this doesn't pass I won't be the last."

Lawmakers in North Carolina passed the Fairness in Women's Sports Act on Wednesday, a bill that would bar biological men from playing on girls' sports teams in middle school and through college.



SEC champion swimmer Riley Gaines speaks during the general session at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Dallas, Texas, August 6, 2022. (REUTERS/Go Nakamura)

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"My ability to compete was taken from me. Having to play against biological males is not a level playing field and it is most definitely not safe," McNabb added.

At least 20 other states have imposed similar limits on transgender athletes at the K-12 or collegiate level. The U.S. House also passed a bill on Thursday to bar federally supported schools and colleges from allowing any athlete whose biological sex assigned at birth was male from competing on girls' or women's sports team.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Paulina Dedaj is a Sports Reporter for Fox News Digital.

Conversation 5.9K Comments

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batpox633 21 April, 2023
Note that the women's net is about 4 inches lower than the men's. Although this may not seem like a lot, it is a huge factor during the game. Often when I've played co-ed volleyball on a women's net, the men are not allowed to hit while in the front line for safety reasons… and this is typically …
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RustyBarrel 21 April, 2023
The source I found shows the difference for high school and college is 7-1/2 inches. Regardless, a lower net makes a huge difference.
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wiredwisdom 21 April, 2023
For that matter a women's basketball is smaller in diameter than a men's basketball due mainly to the fact that women's hands are smaller than mens. So how do you shrink the hands of a trans who plays women's basketball....these are some of the obvious reasons why trans should be excluded from wom...
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progressives8rfreedoms 21 April, 2023
The serious mental illness known medically as "Gender Dysphoria" requires treatment, NOT medical encouragement (including irreversible bodily mutilations), societal promotion, or special legal protections.
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bipolarcalifornian 21 April, 2023
Democrats supporting this are basically telling women their rights don't matter, and their sports don't matter. They're taking away from women and I'm astonished so many women voters will support this.
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27 replies

tompost 21 April, 2023
Most people don't realize that the actor from the volleyball scene in Top Gun: Maverick...

...is the same actor who played Wilson in the 2000 movie "Castaway".
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alittlebitright2 21 April, 2023
I hope she finds a brilliant lawyer and sues every dam responsible government entity. In exercising her right to liberty and pursuit of happiness, she was forced into competition with a male opponent in a female league, putting her at a risk of injury.
Reply · 508 6 · Share

beldezar878 21 April, 2023
It's time to get justice outside of Washington. You can't expect the people that should be investigated and jailed to ever face justice if they are the ones investigating each other. Maybe we need a system outside of their box to investigate and too level charges against them in civil and criminal...
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whodare 21 April, 2023
Politicians got rich in allowing it to happen to her, but there won't be any "equity" sharing of THEIR wealth like the rest of us are supposed to do.
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Lessron 21 April, 2023
While McNabb's injuries are real, and were the result of the natural disparity between the strength of biological males and females, this incident didn't actually happen because Cory Booker says that this is essentially a non-issue. In imaginary unicorn land, there is no difference between the males and females that nature spent a million years evolving into two distinct sexes.
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westernwillis 21 April, 2023
My daughter plays hockey at a high level for a 16 and under team, the coach has already told the parents that he along with the other coaches will walk off the ice if they allow a male to play.
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higherground418 21 April, 2023
What a lovely, brave young woman! The Biden administration should be ashamed that they are pushing Title 9 to include biological males in female sports. I would love for Joe Biden to be on a debate stage with Payton McNabb and Riley Gaines and let him try to enumerate why it is so important for b...
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74dolphins 21 April, 2023
Women are an interesting species.
The fought for decades for equal treatment and right, even espousing the concept that they don't need a man or were tired of their abuses.
And yet now they are being humiliated and even injured by men pretending to be women.
And no one except for Gaines is standing up...
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sandyhayes 21 April, 2023
Someone asked me the other day if I was a feminist and I said not by today's standards. The silence from women protecting women is just wrong. The metoo movement of believe all women except when a democrat is accused and now this. Shameful!!!!
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2 replies

AnaJaneHead 21 April, 2023
The only real feminist are all over 55 years old. Females today have zero understanding of what being a feminist is. It's supporting women. Not crazy women or fake women, real women. This would never have happened in the 70's because real feminist would have attacked and disabled the "dude in girls...**See more**
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fjbtrumpwon 21 April, 2023
This is seriously an easy solvable problem, if a trans anything shows up refuse to play. The problem will sort itself out
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hannahkatzmeow 21 April, 2023
I saw where a girls basketball team in Vermont refused to take the floor against a team with a boy. The school has been barred from any athletic competition for several years by the Vermont High School Athletic Association. That association needs to be sued. The girls' safety was threatened.
Reply · 26 · Share

Heddanuff045 21 April, 2023
Correct. We knew this was only a matter of time until someone was injured. Get the males out of the female game. 10% more muscle mass, more lung and heart capacity, bone structure is larger, designed to take rough interaction. Get them out.
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HTRDNK56 21 April, 2023
This only happens when people can't or won't acknowledge the biological truth that men and women are different. Then where are the adults in the room that are going to stand up for the truth. Where are the "WOMEN's" organizations that are going to say enough is enough? Where are the so-called femen...
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OldMan 21 April, 2023
The national feminist groups of our day have all been frauds.
They care about the political power they garner not the women they claim to represent.
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theright444 21 April, 2023
Sadly, she will be attacked even more now by the "tolerant" left. Time to end this. A stand is needed.
Reply · 219 2 · Share

DenWiggen 21 April, 2023
Can someone please explain to me why most Democrats think this is a good idea? I am struggling to understand
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BillCiari 21 April, 2023
Get Biden into retirement. A Republican will fix this charade in a heartbeat.
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4 replies
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Aeynghus 21 April, 2023
But it's OK because the young "man" responsible for her injuries got to feel like a winner.
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badin 21 April, 2023
I thought liberals cared about my nieces, aunts, sisters, cousins, women/girls in general. I thought they wanted them to move forward and succeed in life. Funny how the republicans that the left always screamed were against women can now be seen as the true champions for REAL women.
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mikefromminnesota759 21 April, 2023
Do remember it was the Republican Party that voted for voting rights for women while the Democrats fought against it.
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