

Good morning, Chairman Gannon and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Bronwyn Sims. I'm an athlete, a coach for girls and women's gymnastics and I am the Leader of the Independent Women's Network Southern New Hampshire Chapter, which supports practical policies that protect freedom, opportunity, and safety for women and girls.

I proudly signed the amicus brief filed by the Independent Council on Women's Sports and 135 female athletes in the U.S. Supreme Court case United States v. Skrmetti.

I rise in strong support of Senate Bill 459 as amended. I appreciate the committee's work to protect biological sex in athletics and involuntary facilities. However, the bill still needs to be strengthened further to fully protect women and girls.

As currently amended, SB 459 only covers athletic competitions and prisons or juvenile detention centers. It does nothing to protect women and girls in most restrooms, locker rooms, showers, or changing areas — the everyday spaces where we are most vulnerable. Partial protection is not protection — it is surrender. We must expand the bill to cover all single-sex facilities where females undress, shower, or use the bathroom.

This is not theoretical. Just last week, on March 31, 2026, the U.S. Department of Education opened a Title IX investigation into the Contoocook Valley School District in Peterborough for allowing biological males into girls' restrooms and locker rooms. Female students complained about privacy violations, yet the district put gender ideology over girls' dignity.

Assistant Secretary Kimberly Richey stated clearly: "Young women should never feel unsafe or uncomfortable in their intimate spaces because their school leaders care more about gender ideology than protecting girls' dignity and privacy."

As a girls' gymnastics coach, athlete, and survivor of male violence, I have personally experienced the intrusion of a man who believes he is a woman in my locker room at the Keene YMCA. That violation of privacy and the immediate sense of vulnerability is something no woman or girl should ever have to endure. Let me be clear: I do not believe every man or men who believe they can become women are violent. But women and girls in New Hampshire should not be required to take on the added risk of allowing biological males into our private, single-sex spaces.

Biological sex is not the same as gender identity. Gender identity is a subjective internal sense of self. It is not a scientific category that can override biological reality — especially in contexts where physical differences matter for safety and fairness. The Supreme Court amicus brief I signed proves what women already know: male advantage is real — even after testosterone suppression — and allowing biological males into female locker rooms and showers violates women's rights to privacy and safety.

New Hampshire must lead. A strengthened SB 459 will restore what women and girls have always had: safe, private, single-sex facilities based on biological sex. It is not controversial. It is common sense.

I respectfully ask you to move this bill forward and further amend it to fully protect every restroom and every locker room. Stand with the women and girls of New Hampshire.

Thank you for your time and for your service.

~ Bronwyn Sims

Leader of the Independent Women's Network Southern New Hampshire Chapter  
Concerned NH Resident