
Women in Combat Deemed "Job Opportunities"

"They'll be allowed to drive tanks, fire mortars, and lead infantry soldiers into combat. They'll be able to serve as Army Rangers and Green Berets, Navy SEALs, Marine Corps infantry, Air Force parajumpers, and everything else that was previously open only to men."

—Department of Defense Secretary Ashton Carter, April 2016

Although Marine Corps officials asked former Defense Secretary Ashton Carter to keep women out of positions such as infantry, machine gunner, and fire support, the request was denied. Mr. Carter declared that the rule placing women in combat would "apply without exception."

Background. The Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948 excluded women from combat. In 2012, during the Obama administration, Pentagon policies were changed to allow women to serve in 14,000 military positions formerly restricted to men, leaving 238,000 men-only positions. Soon, women were admitted to Navy submarines and the Army Ranger School which graduated three women in 2015 – two in August and a third several weeks later.

Also in 2012, three years after a group of servicewomen sued the Pentagon, then-Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta announced a subsequent rule, that "just happened" to come two months after the suit was filed, and "just happened" to allow women to serve in combat.

By January 24, 2013 the Combat Exclusion Policy was lifted, as recommended by the Joint Chiefs of Staff in that Administration. To avoid the term "women in combat," the Pentagon ordered *all services to admit women into all jobs* by January 2016. Also that date was the deadline for all military services to change to gender-neutral physical tests and adopt a policy that requires men and women (without exception) to *serve in front line combat and complete combat operations*. Therefore, front-line combat positions became co-ed and mandatory.

Under current military policy, *both men and women deemed fit for combat are eligible for assignment to front line combat positions*, the Pentagon calls "job opportunities" for women.

In April 2016 the U.S. Army announced the first 22 women to become infantry and armour second lieutenants in charge of units of 40 troops. Also in April 2016, of the 29 women who tried to complete the Marine Corps Infantry Officer Course, all 29 of them failed.

Currently in the Works. An eleven-member U.S. Commission on Military, National and Public Service¹ (USCMNPS) must decide by June 2019 whether to (a) reinstate a draft and (b) include women or (c) draft only to populate the military or (d) draft based on skill sets, and/or (e) draft men and women for national and public service. If a draft is reinstated, doctors, dentists, mathematicians and internet experts will be among the first to be drafted during war. Whatever the USCMNPS decides will become an issue in Congress.

Key Questions before the Commission: Will a military draft be reinstated? Will a reinstated draft include women? Will a co-ed draft be created for compulsory national and public service?

¹ To comply with requirements of Sections 551-557 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2017, on April 3, 2017 President Trump sent Congress the law governing "Principles for Reforming the Military Selective Service Process,"

Legal Rights of Students

Freedom doesn't stop at the schoolhouse door!

First Amendment rights: *Students have a First Amendment right to engage in voluntary, free speech conversations that do not interfere with or disrupt class time and academic instruction.*

Equal Access rights: *Student clubs (including Christian clubs) and individuals also have equal access rights to participate in the same free speech expressions and activities already allowed by the school for other clubs and individuals.*

October 5th, the Fourth Annual Bring Your Bible to School Day

Focus on the Family¹ (FOTF) launched Bring Your Bible to School Day (BYBTSD) in 2014 with 8,000 students participating. In 2016 it grew to a total of 356,000 students from all 50 states and over a half-million students registered for this year's October 5th observance.

FOTF is a global Christian ministry dedicated to helping families thrive in this culture. Their resources include a Help line (1 800 A-FAMILY), as well as counseling and websites that are committed to trustworthy, biblical guidance and support.

*The Alliance Defending Freedom*² (ADF), a Christian legal group based in Scottsdale, Arizona, offers free legal representation to students whose constitutional rights to free speech and religious freedom are violated while participating in Bring Your Bible to School Day.

Students lead the observance. Although schools cannot censor students in their voluntary, free speech (written or verbal), students must follow school policy, as Lettie did at her school. Thirteen-year-old Lettie, who attends a middle school in Virginia says, "We put posters around the school and on our lockers a few weeks before BYBTSD. Some of us didn't wait till that day. We brought our Bibles every day when we learned about it."

Students signing up online with FOTF get a free guide explaining how to get started, as well as an explanation of their legal right to observe BYBTSD. Additional downloadable resources include posters, stickers and T-shirt designs, along with data about other interactive fun things.

BYBTSD Report

By Candi Cushman of Focus on the Family, *CBN News* October 3, 2017

"We have some great stories from kids – even as young as kindergarten – taking their Bibles to school, and just reading it out loud with their friends at recess. There are thousands of students joining them across the nation, and groups like FOTF are standing behind them and praying for them. People don't know that students have that basic right to bring their Bibles to school.

"Students tell us themselves that 'before this event, I thought my Bible was banned.' That's just not accurate. We have several decades of federal court rulings. This is a well-established constitutional right that kids can bring their personal Bible[s] to school. They can have it on their desks during free reading time, they can read it during free time, they can talk about it with their friends during free periods, as well as before and after class – as long as they are not disrupting instruction time and are being respectful of that and respectful to their peers. This is an event that is a visual reminder to students of their basic right to freely live out their faith."

¹ FOTF was founded in 1977 by Dr. James Dobson Jr., who led it until 2003. Dr. Dobson is an American evangelical Christian author and psychologist. In the 1980s he was ranked as one of the most influential spokesmen for conservative social positions in American public life. He was not an ordained minister, but was called "the nation's most influential evangelical leader" by the *New York Times*.

² ADF, launched in 1994, is a legal alliance of Christian attorneys and like-minded organizations defending the right of people to freely live out their faith. ADF uses strategy, training, funding, and litigation to preserve religious liberty, the sanctity of life, marriage, and the family. ADF offers pro bono legal assistance to students whose free speech is blocked.

What's happening in the Transgender debate?

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the International Olympic Committee both allow athletes to compete based on gender identification, provided that athletes who were born biologically male but identify as female are undergoing hormone replacement therapy.

Senior Citizens. On October 5th California Governor Brown signed the “LGBT Senior Bill of Rights,” a law¹ that slaps a \$1,000 fine and a year in prison on folks failing to use the “preferred gender pronoun” of seniors in nursing homes. Because sexual morality is defined in the Bible, the law is a frontal attack on religious expression and conscience. Then, it flies in the face of free speech protection in the U.S. Constitution that deals with fact, not preferred pronouns.

Georgia. On October 16th, the Board² of Decatur City Schools failed to vote, after three hours of testimony from a packed house. LGBT supporters and parents had opposing views about the superintendent's³ July 2016 covert installation of a radical culture change. Two months after the Obama administration said sex in Title IX includes LGBT identity, the DCS superintendent mandated (a) the use of “preferred pronouns” for sexual identity and (b) opened bathrooms, (c) locker rooms, (d) sports, and (e) over-night field trip lodgings to transgender⁴ students.

Effects of Transgender on Title IX Sports

Connecticut. On May 30, 2017, Andraya Yearwood, a 15-year-old transgender sprinter who was born male, won the girls' 100-meter and 200-meter dashes at the Connecticut high school Class M state championships. A tearful Kate Hall, who won last year's 100-meter dash Class M state title as a sophomore but placed second to Yearwood said, “It's frustrating, but that's just the way it is now.” Yearwood assumed transgender ID, but had not begun hormone therapy.

Alaska. After qualifying for the girls' final 100-meter and 200-meter races, a transgender (male to female) athlete competed in two individual championship events for girls at a high school in May 2016. The student from Thailand moved to Haines, Alaska in the summer of 2014 and posted the third-fastest time in the girls' 200 preliminaries and the fifth-fastest in the girls' 100 preliminaries. The top eight runners advanced to the finals.

The Alaska School Activities Association board of directors voted unanimously in April 2016 to accept participation decisions made at the local level. ASAA will not make gender identifications and will not entertain appeals from schools or districts that object to decisions made by other schools or districts. But, if a school or school district has no transgender policy, the ASAA policy requires participation in sports to be based on the students' biological sex.

Alaska Family Action media release makes valid points: “We are here today as a voice from the community to ensure that female athletes are not denied the playing opportunities and scholarships otherwise available to them to make the playing field even again. Allowing students to play on teams of the opposite sex disproportionately impacts female students, who will lose spots on track, soccer and volley teams to male students who identify as female.”

¹ The California senator who authored the “LGBT Senior Bill of Rights” said “religious views don't hold weight in public areas, [and added] ...The LGBT Senior Bill of Rights is an important step in the fight to ensure all people are treated equally regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.”

² Board members, seemingly affirmed, but failed to vote on the superintendent's transgender policy that went into effect in July 2016.

³ Iowa school administrator Dr. David Dude (pronounced DOO-dee) was hired as superintendent of Decatur City Schools in late 2015.

⁴ Two points: 1. Decatur City Schools and California are forcing affirmation of behavior deemed “impersonation of the opposite sex” by the American College of Pediatricians, 2. while repudiating fact and requiring lip-service for fallacy.

A Damaged Culture

At Issue: Re-definition of “sex” in Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

Title IX is a comprehensive federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activity.

Therefore, federal funding provided for boys must be provided for girls, as well. That boon to sports teams for women and girls is being high-jacked by transgender claimants.

The “Dear Colleague” Letter. The Obama administration’s Department of Education and Department of Justice imposed transgender guidelines on public schools in a May 13, 2016 “Dear Colleague” letter, which demanded a radical culture shift. That letter (a) redefined “sex” in Title IX (b) to protect “gender identity” under Title IX and (c) require schools to pass and enforce the same policy or (d) lose Title IX funding. Sex is biological fact, gender is behavior.

On February 22, 2017 President Trump rescinded the Obama letter, but its effects linger. Although President Trump reversed the requirements of the Obama letter, the confusion and frustration caused by ten months of exposure to the “Dear Colleague” guidelines left indelible radical changes and frustration in many schools and communities. Quick to adopt the change is the Decatur City Schools superintendent, whose policy of July 2016 remains, despite dissent. Mr. Trump’s removal of the guidelines means decisions about the issue will be left to state and local governments. Therefore, the 181 school districts in Georgia may need to decide the transgender issue district-by-district or school-by-school through local boards of education.

ACTION – OPPOSE transgender policies that violate the privacy, conscience, and moral standards of students and their families. Ask local board members to craft policies that honor the privacy and moral values of all students. The U.S. Supreme Court has not ruled that transgender students have a right to use facilities meant for the opposite sex.

Decatur City Schools Policy

(a) Gives Transgender Civil Rights Status, (b) Explains how Transgender Policies Work

The following is quoted verbatim from the DCS superintendent’s transgender policy:

“If [you’re] asking yourself ...

- *Should I allow this transgender student to use this restroom?*
Consider replacing ‘transgender’ with ‘black,’ ‘disabled,’ or ‘low income’ and the answer becomes clear (in case it wasn’t before).
- *Should I allow the black/disabled/low income student to use this restroom?*
Yes! Of course. The answer is obvious.”

“For purposes of these examples [of gender identity], assume this student was assigned the sex of male at birth and now identifies as female.

“This student should be treated the same as any other female student.

She should not be identified as anything other than female.

She should be addressed with female pronouns.

She should be allowed to use the female restroom.

She should be allowed to use the female locker room.

She should be allowed to try out for “female” sports.

She should be allowed to room with other females on field trips.”

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