

will wonder: Why is there no protection? “Why aren’t you doing something?” they will say to us in the U.S. Senate. I hope they will hold accountable my Republican colleagues—anyone who supports this CRA—because it will dramatically reduce the enforcement power of the CFPB and anyone else to help protect consumers from those frauds and losses of money, which they need now more than ever.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SPORTS
ACT

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to once again join my Republican colleagues in reaffirming our commitment to safeguarding the protections provided by title IX and the hard-won opportunities it offers women and girls.

Since its enactment in 1972, title IX has been instrumental in preventing sex discrimination in education, ensuring equality for girls and women. Remember that before title IX, women and girls were denied the same academic and athletic opportunities as their male peers.

Title IX was originally designed by Congress to ensure that women and girls receive equal and fair opportunities based on biological reality while also ensuring their safety in educational settings. For more than 50 years, it successfully upheld these principles.

Unfortunately, over the past 4 years, we have seen a concerted and completely misguided effort to redefine gender in ways that ignore biological facts and threaten the significant strides women and girls have made since the passage of title IX. These misguided actions eroded the protections that title IX was created to offer.

After watching the Biden administration claw away at the integrity of title IX for 4 years, I am proud to stand with my colleagues and President Trump in fighting to restore the protections that title IX was always meant to provide to girls and women in sports.

Despite the attempts of our colleagues across the aisle to defend their war on title IX, the American people overwhelmingly agree on a fundamental point: Biologically male athletes should not be allowed to compete in women’s sports or use women’s locker rooms.

I find it ironic that the party that wore pink to protest President Trump’s address last night claiming his policies harm women is the same party where not one Member voted to protect women in sports this week. If it were not so serious, it would almost be laughable.

This is not a matter of partisanship but of common sense and fairness. It is a matter of equal opportunity for all.

This is the message we must continue to amplify in Congress as we work to ensure the future protections of title IX remain intact.

We must pass legislation that protects female athletes and preserves the integrity of women’s sports. To suggest that biological females and transgender women are the same in all respects, particularly in the context of athletic competition, is to set women and girls back, not forward.

The Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act would safeguard title IX by defining gender based on an individual’s biological and genetic sex at birth. It would also ensure that no Federal funding goes to schools or educational organizations that allow males to participate in women’s sporting events, ensuring that title IX’s original intent is upheld across the board.

Importantly, its passage would make it harder for some future President to again assault title IX.

It is disheartening to see that, once again, my Democratic colleagues are failing to advocate for the importance of title IX and what it means to women and girls everywhere. Instead, they choose to cater to an out-of-touch woke mob on this issue.

I am proud to join Senator TUBERVILLE in supporting this commonsense legislation that will continue to protect our daughters, nieces, and granddaughters for years to come.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act.

This act will protect our daughters and granddaughters and keep the original meaning of title IX that was meant to help protect girls and promote females in sports.

On Monday, I was proud to support and vote for this bill. Sadly, every single Democrat—every single one—voted against it. It is deeply concerning and disappointing, frankly, that not one single Democrat would step up and say: I want to protect women’s sports; that I have a daughter or a granddaughter who wants to have the same opportunities that title IX has provided over the last 50 years.

For 50 years, title IX has made it so women and girls would have a chance to compete in sports, but it is not just about athletic opportunities; it is about scholarships, and it is about long-term careers.

Title IX leveled the playing field so our daughters and granddaughters could dream big and pursue their dreams. We saw this on full display in Nebraska when we had Volleyball Day in Nebraska. For those of you who do not recall, Nebraska set a women’s sports attendance record. Over 92,000 people came to watch our women’s volleyball teams. It occurred at Memorial Stadium. It was the largest crowd ever.

You don’t have to take me at my word that this is important for title IX. The Omaha World-Herald called it “the biggest title IX statement of all time.”

It was an incredible moment and could not have happened without title IX. That progress is under attack today.

The Biden administration tried to eliminate those protections. The Biden administration tried to rewrite title IX without the approval of Congress. They tried to change the definition of “sex” to include “gender identity,” which, let me tell you, that was not a thing 50 years ago when this bill was written.

Girls would be forced to share dorm rooms, locker rooms, and bathrooms with males. Men would be able to take women’s spots on sports teams and women’s scholarships. That is what happens if you allow this to go forward, if you allow men to compete in women’s sports, just by claiming they are a woman. The damage is already being done.

Last night, President Trump told the story of Payton McNabb. Payton was a high school volleyball player on the girls’ team who was severely injured by a male opponent who smashed a ball into her head. She suffered a concussion, a brain bleed, and permanent whiplash. She also dealt with vision problems. It never should have been allowed to happen.

Riley Gaines is another example. Riley swam for the University of Kentucky and competed against a man for 3 years in her college career.

Lia Thomas, formerly William Thomas, was a mediocre male swimmer who then decided that he would be a women’s swimmer, with all that goes along with that, not only competing in events but accessing women’s restrooms and their locker rooms. He became one of the top women swimmers—because it is true, what we all know from common sense: Males and females are built differently.

It is wrong and it is unfair to allow men to compete against women in women’s sports. It ignores science and common sense.

Last August, the United Nations released a report that showed that over 600 female athletes—600 female athletes—in more than 400 competitions have already lost more than 890 medals in 29 different sports because those women were competing against males who claimed to be women. That is hundreds of young women who have trained for years, only to have their medals, records, and opportunities taken from them.

The American people see the unfairness of it, and they strongly support protecting women’s sports. A 2025 poll from the New York Times found that 79 percent of Americans want to keep women’s sports for women—for biological females. That includes a majority of registered Democrats.

This isn’t a Republican or a Democrat issue. This is an American issue. And unlike my Democratic colleagues and President Biden, President Trump took steps to protect women’s sports. He took action to protect the original meaning of title IX, in his first few

days as President. He knew that title IX was written to protect women, not erase them. His leadership stood for fairness, science, and common sense.

But there is no guarantee the next President is going to uphold President Trump's action. This bill would make those protections permanent. The Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act is simple. It says that, under title IX, "sex" means the person's reproductive biology at birth. That is how title IX was understood for decades, and that is how title IX should work today.

Men and boys shouldn't compete against women and girls in female sports. It is just common sense. It is absolutely just plain common sense.

Yet, 2 days ago, every single one of my Democratic colleagues voted against protecting women's collegiate athletics. They chose the wrong side of an 80-20 issue. They chose not to fight for science, for equal opportunity, and for women and girls.

I urge them to reconsider. Let's stand with women over radical policies. Let's stand with the overwhelming majority of Americans. Let's keep a level playing field for our daughters and granddaughters. Again, I urge my Democratic colleagues to reconsider.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

FEDERAL BUDGET

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I think everyone so enjoyed listening to the State of the Union Address last night, and for so many Tennesseans—we have heard from them today—they were excited, they felt hopeful, and they also are watching very closely what the actions of the House and the Senate are going to be.

Now, many of them have mentioned that they know we have that March 14 funding deadline coming up, and so, in 9 days, the Federal Government would be running out of money. And they have heard my colleagues from across the aisle talk about shutting the government down and making that choice to shut the government down because they don't want to pass a budget.

But if you shut the government down, then you are not going to be able to move forward on President Trump's agenda. We know they are not for that agenda, but what they are missing is that the American people are for President Trump's agenda. They want to see the border secure. They want inflation to come down. They want crime in the cities to be dealt with. They want our standing in the world to be returned. They support President Trump.

And we know that when President Trump was returned to the Oval Office, he was given a powerful mandate from the American people, and he deserves to have his agenda shape government spending. But we know there is little time left, and so we begin to hear those conversations that we usually hear about having a continuing resolution.

Now, the reason conservatives like me oppose that is because it continues

the current spending, and that is a Joe Biden budget. And we know that, under the Biden administration, they literally ran the numbers off the government credit card. They were spending so much money. They have driven this Nation's debt to \$36.5 trillion.

This pandemic and post-pandemic spending has left every single American spending \$1,060 more per month to buy the same basket of goods and services they were buying in 2021. Now, think about that. That is the result of Bidenflation: \$1,060 more a month to buy the same basket of goods and services you could buy 4 years ago—because we know what has happened with Bidenflation. We know the true rate of that inflation is, cumulatively, over 20 percent.

It is not what they wanted to say—core inflation is only 3 percent or it is only 4 percent. Anybody that buys milk and eggs knows that is not right. And, of course, it is going to take a while to get those numbers down, to look at the prices of gas and groceries and rent and utilities.

And we know that the Biden budgets are what have fueled this growing debt, this annual deficit that we have seen, and the fact that now, when you look at every single American, their portion of our Nation's debt is now \$107,000—\$107,000.

I was talking to a friend this week who has a new baby—just arrived, brandnew—and they are so excited to once again have a little baby in their family. And as we were talking about politics and all that was going on and the excitement of the baby, I said: And when you look at the Federal debt, their share, their "welcome to the world" present from the U.S. Federal Government: You now, as a U.S. citizen, share in this \$36.5 trillion debt to the point of \$107,000.

I think the American people know that our fiscal path would lead us to disaster if we do not change what we are doing, if we do not look at where we are spending this money.

Thank goodness that President Donald Trump has taken the time to look seriously at what the Federal Government spends and, yes, to work toward moving us to a balanced budget.

Now, one of the ways that he is doing this—and, yes, there have been Executive orders and there has also been the implementation of the Department of Government Efficiency. We refer to this as DOGE.

Today, some of us have had the opportunity to listen to Elon Musk and his team who are carrying out the work at the Department of Government Efficiency.

DOGE, so far, has found \$105 billion of inefficiencies in the Federal Government—\$105 billion. They are finding about \$4 billion a day. The President went through a list last night of some of the waste that is there for projects that maybe really do not yield a result that will benefit the hard-working taxpayer.

We also heard about fraud and people that are receiving Social Security checks that maybe don't exist, people that might be 125, 150, 160 years old, even over 300 years old. That is fraud. And we all are very hopeful that we are going to be able to close that loop, find out who these individuals are, and make certain that they are prosecuted and that money is returned to the U.S. taxpayer.

This is a huge step toward getting our fiscal house in order. Yet these savings that we are finding are only going to be made official and permanent when we put them into the congressional budget.

Now, we all know that this requires us to go through the rescission process. This requires us to codify these reductions so that they are removed from the budget in future years.

We know that that is going to require us to get back to regular order on the budget as we go through this process, as we work through reconciliations, making certain there is a clear path to end continuing resolutions, return to regular order, return to a budget document, and be able to deliver.

I will tell you this: When I talk to Tennesseans, they want transparency. I think one of the things they have so appreciated about DOGE is that they have a website. They are putting all of this information on the website. They are putting it on their X account, but they are showing the American people what they are doing, where they are finding waste, where they are finding fraud, and how they are being able to address this.

This means that as we work through this, we are going to have to take our actions. We are going to have to return to that regular order. We are going to have to bring these spending bills to the floor, and we are going to have to insist and vote for and support a balanced budget so that we begin to reduce, first, eliminate our deficit for the year, and then target balancing our Federal budget and beginning to reduce our debt.

I am so pleased that President Trump talked about this last night in his State of the Union Address because it is important not only for today, tomorrow but for our children and grandchildren's future. He mentioned this—the sovereignty, the stability of our Nation.

What we want is to make the tough choices today, to make the spending reductions today, so that in the future, our children have a nation that is firmly sovereign and is able to stand whatever comes our way.

I think it is so interesting that in 2010, the summer of 2010, Admiral Mullen was asked the question: What keeps you up at night; what worries you the most; what is our greatest threat to our Nation's freedom?

His response was our Nation's debt, and we all know that debt has doubled since that point in 2010 when he made that comment.