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WATCH: Puyallup high school wrestler takes fight for girls-only sports to SCOTUS

By Carleen Johnson | The Center Square
Oct 6, 2026

(The Center Square) - Attorneys with **Alliance Defending Freedom** filed an **emergency**

Democratic	2,760,544	52%				
Republican	1,440,461	27%				
Independent	1,105,605	21%				
* https://independentvoterproject.org/voter-stats/wa						
I-001 Survey Results				Projected Vote Adjusted for Party Share		
	Republicans	Democrats	Independents			
Would Vote For	66%	47%	45%			51%
Would Vote Against	12%	18%	17%			16%
Undecided	22%	35%	39%			32%
I-638 Survey Results						
	Republicans	Democrats	Independents			
Would Vote For	73%	48%	52%			56%
Would Vote Against	11%	31%	21%			24%
Undecided	17%	22%	28%			22%

“She is extraordinarily brave to stand up for women and girls and to tell her story. No one wants to tell a story of sexual assault to the entire world,” said Hampton.

“She lost an entire wrestling season last year and she’s staring down the barrel of losing another season in what we all know is a limited high school career. The vast majority of high school athletes won’t play beyond high school, and so these years are precious and they’re fleeting,” Frampton said.

Keeler and her mother filed a federal lawsuit pressing the school district to adhere to the requirements of Title IX by prohibiting male wrestlers from competing against female opponents, regardless of how they identify.

The suit also seeks provisions requiring parents be notified before female students on the wrestling team would be facing a male competitor.

After a federal district court and an appeals court declined the requests, ADF is now **asking** the Supreme Court to intervene to protect girls' sports and uphold Title IX's

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season that begins in November.

"That's exactly why we've asked the court for expedited relief," said Hampton.

Three months ago, the high court **upheld Republican state bans** against males participating in girls' sports, regardless of how they identify, in *West Virginia v. B.P.J.*

The court's ruling did not require states to bar male students from female athletics, but Keeler's case asks the court to take the matter up on the emergency docket.

No criminal charges

Pierce County prosecutors declined to file criminal charges in the case, arguing that such charges would be difficult to prove in court, despite the fact the sheriff's office referred a rape charge.

In reviewing the case, the prosecutor's office cited an appellate court ruling that found that a person who willingly participates in sports consents to "potentially offensive contact."

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Opponents of the measure including the League of Women Voters **argue** the initiative is unnecessary as so few athletes are impacted.

"All of this to prevent a hypothetical scenario in which a trans girl, one of just a handful in Washington state, might someday pole vault higher, swim faster or win a race due to their status. Could this happen? Perhaps, but the odds are extremely low. Violating the personal privacy of an estimated 200,000 Washington girl athletes is not a solution," wrote League of Women Voters.

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Among Independent voters, 52% said they will vote for the measure, 21% said they'll be against it and 28% were undecided.

Carleen Johnson

Associate Editor