

## **Payton McNabb**

Payton McNabb is an Independent Women sports ambassador. McNabb is a former three-sport high school athlete from North Carolina who was severely injured by a male on the women's volleyball court. She has worked alongside Independent Women to share her personal experience of competing against a biological male athlete and how her life forever changed following an injury during the game. Now, McNabb is turning tragedy into triumph and using her voice to advocate for female athletes' safety and the need to keep women's sports female.

McNabb was knocked unconscious and exhibited a fencing response following a forceful blow to the head from a volleyball spike by a biological male playing on the opposing women's team. The sheer impact of the ball has left McNabb with significant long-term physical and mental effects, including impaired vision, partial paralysis on her right side, balance issues, anxiety, and depression.

McNabb first testified before the North Carolina General Assembly in April 2023 to advocate for the passage of the Fairness in Women's Sports Bill. During her testimony, McNabb said, "I'm here for every biological[ly] 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."

Since Payton's life-altering injury at the hands of a male in women's sports, she has made waves advocating for women's fairness and safety around the country. She has shared her personal experience of competing against a male athlete and how her life forever changed following an injury during the game. Her passion in speaking out to keep women's sports female makes her a powerful voice in the movement of brave women fighting for common sense. She has gained national attention for her advocacy and joined President Trump as his guest at his joint address to Congress, where he recognized Payton's bravery.