

**Male-Only Military Colleges and  
Gender Discrimination—  
Comments on *United States v. Virginia***

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**Abstract**

This article aims to analyze the decision by the Supreme Court of the United States on *United States v. Virginia* in 1996. The core issue is—does the male-only admission policy of a public military college violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment? After a brief introduction in part I, part II of this article analyzes the factual background and legal reasoning of this case. Part III traces the development of judicial standards to review gender discrimination cases. Part IV focuses on the standard of review as applied in this case and explores whether the *Virginia* Court used a “strict scrutiny” instead of “intermediate scrutiny” test. Part V of this article goes on to discuss substantive issues such as real difference, administrative costs, military colleges, and single-sex education. In conclusion, this article supports the ruling of *Virginia*’s majority opinion, while criticizing its reasoning. This article urges the courts to take an asymmetrical view of gender equality and further challenge existing male standards and entrenched gender politics.

**Key Words:** Equal Protection, Gender Discrimination, Standard of Review, Single-Sex School, Real Difference