

Testimony Against HB 757

Education – Interscholastic and Intramural Teams and Sports – Designation Based on Biological Sex (Save Women’s Sports Act)
Ways and Means Committee
February 24, 2022

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6th Congressional District

Chair Pendergrass and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the chance to testify against House Bill 757.

HB 757 is an ill-informed, transphobic bill. There are many problems to address with this bill, but I'll focus on the most important one in this testimony: trans women are women.

Girls come in all shapes and sizes. Even girls considered cisgender present with natural advantages and disadvantages. For example, one girl may be particularly short, another exceedingly tall. One may have difficulty putting on muscle while another does so very easily. We do not deny the advantageous cisgender girl her right to play women's sports, because she is a girl and deserves to do so. Trans girls and women should be afforded the same treatment.

I also wish to note that within the group of girls and women that are considered cisgender, a fair number of them would actually be considered biologically intersex, should genetic testing be done. It's estimated that nearly 2% of the population, or about 1 in every 50 people, is born with intersex traits. However, because these traits are not always visible (or if they are, they're promptly mutilated to better conform to accepted norms), many intersex people have no idea they're intersex, and are thus categorized as cisgender.

The point to my segue is this: biological sex is much less clear-cut than HB 757 proposes. Yet despite the genetic variations within cis females, these differences are embraced.

Additionally, the negative social and mental impacts this bill would have on already vulnerable trans female athletes would be immense. It would not only prevent their participation in healthy activities, it would also alienate them from their peers and worsen their self-perceptions.

I urge the committee to see transgender athletes participating in sports for what it truly is - a celebration of equality for ALL girls and women.

Thank you for your consideration,

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