

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY Bill: HB 0757 Education- Interscholastic and Intramural Teams and Sports- Designation Based on Biological Sex

Position: UNFAVORABLE

Good afternoon committee and thank you for your time. My name is Nicole Hollywood. I am a resident of Maryland's Eastern Shore residing in district 37B. I am an educator, a volunteer with Salisbury PFLAG, and a parent to a transgender son.

I am here today to state my opposition to HB757, a misguided bill rooted in transphobia that is simply not backed by the scientific research. Transgender children, like all children, vary in athletic ability and there is zero scientific evidence that transgender student athletes affect the fairness or competition of sports (ACLU, 2020). Further, HB 0757 is psychologically harmful to children.

Gender is a spectrum and not all individuals identify as male or female. Transgender people are our beloved friends and family, co-workers, neighbors, students, community members, children, and parents. Being transgender is not the whole of anyone's identity because gender identity is just one small piece of who one is as an individual.

Transgender athletes participate in sports for the same reasons as everyone else—to get and stay healthy, be part of a team, and build a sense of belonging with their peers. Many who oppose the inclusion of trans athletes erroneously claim that allowing trans athletes to compete will harm cisgender women but excluding transgender and gender non-conforming students hurts all students.

Denying transgender youth access to athletic programs is discrimination. It is regressive and unjust and not in line with our moniker as the Free State. If this bill passes it will be a form of state censored intolerance and those who support this bill will be on the wrong side of history.

Thank you for your time and I ask you for an unfavorable report out of committee.