

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF BILL HB0757

Education – Interscholastic and Intramural Teams and Sports – Designation Based on Biological Sex (Save Women’s Sports Act)

TO: Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair  
Washington, and members of the Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Chris Apple  
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I am writing to ask you to oppose HB 757.

The language in this bill is full of scientific inaccuracies, and was copied almost word-for-word from Idaho’s Fairness in Women’s Sports Act. That Act now has an injunction against it, citing a concern for “irreparable” harm to the two plaintiffs in the case.<sup>1</sup> If HB 757 is enacted, I am concerned it would cause irreparable harm to Marylanders as well.

There are fatal flaws with the premise of this legislation. Its preamble alleges that testosterone creates an unfair advantage, but there are conflicting studies about whether this is really true.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, “transgender girls are not the only girls with high testosterone levels,” a Scientific American article explains. “An estimated 10 percent of women have polycystic ovarian syndrome, which results in elevated testosterone levels.”<sup>3</sup> Those women are not banned from women’s sports - nor should they be.

This bill would take athletes who are competing fairly and turn them into scapegoats for transphobia. I played several sports as a child. I can clearly remember times when a very talented new athlete would join the team and outperform the rest of us. This is a common occurrence; it happens everyday on women’s sports teams all over the country. The fact that a few of those very talented women are transgender is incidental. The Olympics has accepted transgender athletes since 2004, but so far, only a single openly transgender athlete has even managed to qualify.<sup>4</sup> We are seeing just a few specific cases in schools, which reflects how few transgender athletes there are on women’s teams.

This bill stokes transphobia. It invites “sex policing” where, if accused of lying, children would have to prove their biological sex through invasive and embarrassing exams and tests. It’s an attack on Marylanders, and I respectfully urge the committee to issue an unfavorable report.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.idahoednews.org/school-policy/freeze-on-idahos-transgender-athlete-ban-faces-new-challenges/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/trans-girls-belong-on-girls-sports-teams/?amp;text=Trans>

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.