

HB0757 - Education – Interscholastic and Intramural Teams and Sports – Designation Based on Biological Sex (Save Women’s Sports Act)

Date: February 24, 2022

Committee: House Ways and Means Committee

Position: Unfavorable

The undersigned individuals express their strong opposition to HB757 and urge the committee for an unfavorable report.

HB0757 aims to prohibit schools from allowing a “student whose biological sex is male” to participate in a sports team that is designated for girls, females, or women. This would effectively ban transgender girls from participating in girls’ sports. It serves no purpose other than inflicting harm on trans students and their families as a part of a political strategy against LGBTQ equality and a larger culture war.

The premise behind this bill is that students who are “biologically male” have higher levels of testosterone and other biological advantages over cis girls in athletics. Not only does this claim have no true [basis in science](#), there is [stronger research](#) showing that trans-inclusive sports policies do not harm cis-athletes. In fact, organizations dedicated to promoting women’s sports, such as the [Women’s Sports Foundation](#), [Women Leaders in College Sports](#), and the [National Women’s Law Center](#), support trans inclusive policies and oppose efforts to exclude transgender students from participating in sports. Without any evidence showing that trans girls pose a disruption in Maryland schools and youth athletics, this bill is a “solution” to a non-existent problem.

Unfortunately, this “solution” is at the expense of LGTBTA students. The benefits—physiological, social, and emotional—of participating in school sports teams and athletics are wide-ranging. If passed, this bill would send a message to transgender youth that they are not worthy of the same kinds of opportunities as their classmates. Even without passage, simply introducing anti-trans legislation like HB757 is detrimental to the wellbeing of transgender kids. 85% of transgender and nonbinary youth [report that constant political attacks on them have had a negative impact on their mental health](#). We urge the committee to send a louder message that transgender kids are welcome in all spaces in our community and deserve to play.

Sincerely,

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