

## **HB359 Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Sports Designation Save Women's Sports**

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegates Szeliga, Adams, Arentz, Arikan, Baker, Bouchat, Buckel, Chisholm, Ciliberti, Fisher, Ghrist, Grammer, Griffith, Hartman, Hinebaugh, Hornberger, Jacobs, Kipke, R. Long, Mangione, McComas, Metzgar, Miller, M. Morgan, T. Morgan, Nawrocki, Otto, Reilly, Rose, Schmidt, Tomlinson, Valentine, and Wivell

**Committee:** House Ways and Means Committee

**Organization Submitting:** Lower Shore Progressive Caucus

**Person Submitting:** Dr. Nicole Hollywood, LSPC

**Position:** UNFAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to HB359 on behalf of the Lower Shore Progressive Caucus. The Caucus is a political and activist organization on the Eastern Shore, unaffiliated with any political party, committed to empowering working people by building a Progressive movement on the Lower Eastern Shore.

There is no scientific rationale for HB 359. Transgender children, like all children, vary in athletic ability. There is no evidence that transgender student-athletes affect the fairness or competition of sports.

Gender is also central to how children see themselves and banning transgender and gender non-conforming youth from participating in sports is psychologically harmful and will have a rippling effect that further marginalizes a group of students and opens up all students who don't fit culturally-accepted gender norms to bullying and humiliating scrutiny.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Psychological Association, American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, ADL (the Anti-Defamation League), American Psychiatric Association, ACLU, American Association of University Women, Girls on the Run International, National Black Justice Coalition, Pediatric Endocrine Society, Union for Reform Judaism, Women's Sports Foundation, and many more stand against misguided legislation designed to further isolate and marginalize trans kids.

The Lower Shore Progressive Caucus recognizes opposes this bill and recommends an **UNFAVORABLE** report in committee.