



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

House Bill 359, Education – Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Sports
– Designation Based on Sex (Save Women’s Sports Act) - Unfavorable

Maryland House of Delegates Ways & Means Committee, 2/15/2023

All members of the Montgomery County Council urge the committee to deliver an unfavorable report on HB 359. We additionally express our support to the transgender and nonbinary children whom this bill seeks to harm and ultimately erase.

This bill is anti-science, anti-trans, and harmful to all youth athletes: transgender, cisgender, and intersex.

Women’s sports are not and have never been at risk of being dominated by trans women. Transgender people are a small percentage of the general population, and just like cisgender people, a very small percentage of them will dedicate their lives to reaching the pinnacle of a sport. Perhaps that’s why transgender athletes have been allowed in the Olympics since 2004 and only one has won an Olympic medal.

HB 359 is a transparent effort to harm trans people rather than to “save” women’s sports. It would, in fact, harm cisgender girls as well as trans people. Girls’ bodies, already historically heavily policed, would suddenly come under additional scrutiny, subject to the whims of any competitor or community member who decides to challenge them based on perceived femininity.

The rights of transgender, nonbinary, and intersex athletes across Maryland to find joy, friendship, stability, health, and consistency in sports are equally important as those of cisgender athletes. To bar trans athletes from competing as the gender they know themselves to be — forcing them to either give up their sport or face the humiliation of competing amongst the gender group from which they’ve striven to separate themselves — undermines their identity and their very humanity. It is cruel and ugly, and benefits no one.

We thank our colleagues in advance for ensuring this bill receives an unfavorable report.

Councilmember Kristin Mink

Councilmember Kate Stewart

Council President Evan Glass

Councilmember Dawn Luedtke

Council Vice President Andrew Friedson

Councilmember Sidney Katz

Councilmember Marilyn Balcombe

Councilmember Will Jawando

Councilmember Gabe Albornoz

Councilmember Laurie-Anne Sayles

Councilmember Natali Fani-Gonzalez