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February 15, 2023

HB 0359 - Education – Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Sports – Designation Based on Sex (Save Women's Sports Act)

Position: UNFAVORABLE

The Board of Directors of Annapolis Pride vehemently opposes HB 0359. The bill, which fails in its stated purpose on scientific grounds, only serves to exclude transgender and gender non-conforming individuals from participating in team sports. Transgender youth are much more likely to experience discrimination and assault in school¹ compared to their cis-gendered peers. Trans youth have the same right to play sports as anybody else.

The sponsors of this ill-informed legislation have proffered the notion that biological sex is predetermined at birth in a dichotomous fashion and remains unchanged for the entirety of an individual's lifespan. This is categorically false². Further, the reasoning behind sex categories in sports is in no way supported by this bill's definition of sex as binary. The gender binary and its associated norms can influence the success of female athletes, as well as their ability to even participate in athletics in the first place. Therefore, biology is not the only factor that should be taken into consideration when discussing the male-female athletic differential. The reasoning behind sex categories in sports is in no way supported by this bill's definition of sex as binary, because hormonal differences³ determine the male-female athletic differential.

For these reasons, Annapolis Pride respectfully requests an unfavorable report on HB 0359.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaden T. Farris
Board Member
Annapolis Pride