

Testimony in Opposition of HB 0359

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

Ways and Means Committee

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Chair Vanessa E. Atterbeary and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition of House Bill 0359.

People who care about protecting children do not support legislation that causes them to be more likely to kill themselves. HB0359 and similar anti-trans legislation serves no purpose and has no scientific backing other than to fuel outrage politics prevalent in the current culture of America. The fact of the matter is that trans girls and trans women are simply not dominating any sports, from youth athletics to the Olympics. The IOC has allowed transgender athletes to compete in the Olympics since 2004. It was not until 2021 that Laurel Hubbard became the first trans woman to compete in the Olympics. She competed in power lifting and did not win a medal in competition. Furthermore, the often-cited lawsuit from Connecticut alleging that two trans girls were “dominating” their track and field competitions failed to mention that two days after the lawsuit was filed one of the girls lost to the cisgender girl who filed the lawsuit. The fact of the matter is that there is no scientific evidence to support the idea that transgender athletes have a competitive advantage. This legislation and all anti-trans legislation do not serve to “protect children” or “save women’s sports” because those institutions are not under attack. Studies by The Trevor Project revealed that 52% of transgender youth contemplated suicide in 2020. Bills like HB0359 contribute to the alienation of these children. Evidence shows that support and inclusion mitigate suicidality in transgender youth. What our children need is inclusivity and community, two things that youth athletics specifically provide. I urge you to reject HB0359 as it is particularly harmful to the transgender community. It stems from anti-trans sentiment and fear and disregards real evidence and individual health.

Please do what you can to support all Marylanders. I strongly urge you to oppose HB0359.

Thank you for your consideration,

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