



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman
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Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary, Chairman
and Members of the Ways and Means Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: **HB 0359** – Interscholastic & Intramural Junior Varsity & Varsity Teams & Sports-Designation Based on Sex – **SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Atterbeary and Committee Members,

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women strongly supports HB 0359 – Interscholastic and Intramural Teams and Sports in public and non-public schools where the designation is based on biological sex.

Girls and boys are biologically different from birth. Separate sports categories for male and female athletes were established because post-pubescent males are larger, stronger, have longer and more dense bones, larger hearts, greater lung capacity, and other differences. There is a huge physiological difference between the post-pubescent males and females.

Normal post-pubescent testosterone levels (nanomoles per liter)

| | |
|---------|---------------------|
| Males | 7.7 to 29.4 nmol/L |
| Females | 0.12 to 1.76 nmol/L |

Competitive sports have been binary for a reason. Males and females are different. It is not a fair or level playing field if biological males, even if they identify as female, are allowed to compete against biological females. A specific case in point is the University of Pennsylvania swimmer who competed for 3 years on the men's second team and then switched to "identifying as female", joined the women's team, and set records in the women's swim events. Sports "greats" including Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova have stated that this is unfair and unjust.

Title IX's purpose was to remove barriers that girls and women faced for equal opportunity to participate in educational and athletic programs and employment opportunities. Senator Birch Bayh, sponsor of Title IX, said "discrimination in postsecondary education was driven by the widespread, but false, perception that the duty or desire of women to get married and bear children made them disinterested in pursuing education or professional achievement." He went on to say that sex discrimination in "admissions, scholarship programs, faculty hiring and promotion, professional staffing, and pay scales" was "one of the great failings of the American educational system."



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Clearly, the purpose of Title IX was for girls and women to have access equal to those of boys and men to participate in high school and college educational classes, intercollegiate athletic programs, and scholarships, and to pursue degrees leading to employment, including professional sports. Requiring that biological males declaring as females be allowed to compete in athletic programs and scholarship opportunities reserved for girls and women diminishes the rights and opportunities of biological girls and women.

Establishing a separate category of competitive sports for trans-women and trans-men is the only way to ensure a science-based fair and level playing field for all.

Women have struggled long and hard for equal opportunities in scholarships, educational degrees and job opportunities. The Federal Fair Equality Act and other efforts that declare there are no differences between men and women are making women invisible. The protections in HB 0359 will ensure girls and women can compete on a level playing field and rightfully celebrate the achievements of their biological sex.

Please give **HB0359** a **FAVORABLE** report.

Sincerely,
Ella Ennis
Legislative Chairman