

February 15, 2023

The Honorable Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary, Chairman  
And Members of the Ways & Means Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: **HB359** – Education – Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Sports – Designation Based on Sex (Save Women's Sports Act) -- **SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Atterbeary and Members,

I am representing 400 Montgomery County Federation of Republican Women and we are in support of **HB359** and thank Delegate Szeliga for sponsoring this important bill.

It doesn't seem as though we would need to write a testimony to a body with a supermajority of Democrats, to support women's rights. However, just as Republican women supported the right of women to vote over 100 years ago, we stand again in supporting our gender today, along with the federal law that protects women under Title IX.

In the fiscal notes, it appears there is a perception that there is a conflict between Title IX and how to categorize transgender students because the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) gives transgender guidance requiring that local school systems, on a case-by-case basis, should ensure that all students are eligible to participate in sports, irrespective of the gender listed on a student's record.

Doesn't federal law supersede any laws or guidelines of any state entity? Why isn't it clear to the supermajority that boys participate in boys sports, and girls participate in girls sports?

We empathize with transgender students and agree that they should be able to participate in sports, so isn't it your job to make sure that they participate either in their biological category or in a new category of transgenders?

We expect that you will uphold your oath of office to abide by the US Constitution and laws thereof by voting in favor of this bill. There are thousands of young women, some of whom are hoping to earn college scholarships and shatter records, who are counting on you to support their ability to compete fairly among biological females.

For these reasons, we ask that you file a **favorable** report.

Sincerely,

Laurie Halverson, President  
Montgomery County Federation of Republican Women  
lsh2727@verizon.net