

Committee: House Ways and Means Committee

Bill: HB47 - Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Sports - Designation Based on Sex (Fairness in Girls' Sports Act)

Position: **FAVORABLE**

Dear Delegate Atterbeary and fellow members of the Committee,

Competitive sports have been binary for a reason. Allowing biological men to compete against biological women is simply cruel and discriminatory. Competitive sports are based on Sex, not Gender Identity.

The United States has made great strides in promoting women's sports since Title IX revolutionized our country over 50 years ago. Ignoring this would set us back from women's rights for almost half a century. We would be discouraging females from participating in sports because of having to compete against biological men and strip them of their pride.

Female athletes have fought too long and too hard for equal athletic opportunity to let that happen. The average male is bigger, faster, and stronger than the average female. In fact, males who suppress testosterone and use feminizing hormones do not mitigate male biological advantage.

Our state's out-of-date policies limiting discussion and silencing dissent need review and revision. Policies with regard to participation in sports are easy to create; there should be no special allowances or rules for gender identity. Bodies play sports, not identities. It takes only one trans-identified male to displace the trajectory of every female athlete in the sport. We know this from the hundreds of female titles, awards, medals, and podium spots lost throughout the world in nearly every sport. As a society, we can celebrate the differences of individuals but hold bodies accountable in sports. The future of every female athlete counts on it.

These scenarios are happening here in Maryland. This year, a neighbor's daughter competed in a Maryland volleyball game against a team with a biological boy. The trans-identified male was over 6 feet tall and had an obvious advantage of spiking the ball over the girls-sized net. Needless to say, his team won every match and the entire tournament. Speaking with my neighbor's daughter, she was disappointed and ultimately unsure if she had a future in the sport here in Maryland because of these unfair situations.

Privacy issues are also of concern, as females are forced to share locker rooms and changing facilities with trans-identified males who typically have intact male genitalia. I certainly do not want my daughter forced into a situation where her privacy and feelings are subjugated to that of a trans-identified male.

23 states across the country have already passed similar legislation. Please vote favorable on HB47 for the sake of young female athletes in Maryland.

Respectfully submitted by Rachel Ullmann of District 7A in Kingsville, Maryland.