

January 29, 2024

Delegate Szeliga
HB0047

Delegate Szeliga,

My name is SJ Janjua and I am a constituent of Baltimore, Maryland. I live in Maryland, work in Maryland, and have chosen to build my family in Maryland. I believe Maryland is a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family, but it is bills like HB0047 that make me want to leave Maryland. I am an openly transgender, non-binary, queer person and my community deserves the same respect shown to cisgender heterosexual people in this state.

I vehemently oppose HB0047, otherwise known as the "Fairness in Girls' Sports Act." There is nothing fair about this bill, it is actually incredibly exclusionary. I am testifying against HB0047. As a former high school teacher, coach, and athlete myself, I know that sports are a sanctuary. I know they were for me, a place where my feelings (and the feelings of others) about my own gender and sexuality came second to the talent and leadership I was able to cultivate as an athlete. By passing this bill, you are actively saying to every transgender kid who wants to play sports and feel included in something bigger than themselves that you do not see them for who they are and celebrate them for that. Every kid deserves the opportunity to be who they are and enjoy the activities they enjoy without discrimination.

To restate, I vehemently oppose HB0047 as a constituent of Maryland. I do not in any way support any section of this discriminatory bill. Transgender kids need our support now more than ever, please consider being inclusive rather than exclusionary. Lives depend on it.

SJ Janjua
sijan103@gmail.com