

I am sending this message to voice my opposition of proposed bill HB0047 to be heard by the Assembly Wednesday 1/31/2024 at 1pm. This legislation seeks to uphold the false claim that transgender, gender diverse, and intersex individuals compromise the fairness of athletic competition and seeks to further marginalize athletes across the gender and sexual expression. This bill runs in direct opposition of the will of the voters of Maryland who elected Gov. Moore, and many other representatives, to help protect LGBTQIA+ people in our state and who believe when he said that “In the State of Maryland, nobody should have to justify their own humanity”. Every person, regardless of their sex or gender, deserves the opportunity to play the sports they are passionate about and to compete on a team. To say otherwise is to push LGBTQIA+ people out of public life and to deny them character defining experiences that last a life time. As a transgender athlete and proud Marylander, I am calling on you to support my community and the dignity of all in our state by opposing this bill with every power at your disposal.

To the Delegates who are in favor or sponsoring this bill, I earnestly request that you reconsider and pull your support from this bill. This bill is a stain on Maryland’s inclusive and progressive legacy and seeks to enshrine discrimination based on outdated sex based prejudice. As I mentioned before, everyone deserves a shot at being involved in the activities they love as the person they truly are. It is not, and should not ever be, up to a school or administrators to decide that for someone and I deeply question the motivations to give that power over to institutions rather than the individual with lived experience.

Thank you for taking the time to read my message and hope that all delegates will side with the true freedom of self expression, to fight against institutional discrimination, and to make Maryland an even better place to be regardless of sex and or gender.

Sincerely,

Ambrose Leos

He/HIm

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