

January 29, 2024

Dear Members of the Committee:

I am writing in to state my absolute opposition to the deceptively named HB47 - Fairness in Girls' Sports Bill sponsored by Del. Kathy Szeliga.

This bill does NOT promote fairness in any way - it promotes bigotry and hatred. The reality is that trans athletes do NOT have any inherent advantage over cisgender athletes, as this study(1) shows:

"Sex differences are not as pronounced among younger males and females but emerge among adult males and females. Prior to puberty, young males and females have similar aerobic capacity, strength, body composition, and overall athletic performance. the limited information available does not suggest that trans men and trans women have much, if any, athletic advantage post-transition. Indeed, in most cases they perform more similarly to those matching their gender identity, or somewhere between cis men and women. If these individuals are performing somewhere between cis men and women on some performance parameters, does it pose a meaningful risk of inequity in sport or risk of athletic injuries, or are concerns for these problems misplacing blame to cover discrimination?"

Additional research(2) shows this: "A new report has found that trans women do not have any biomedical advantage in elite sport. They have no advantage over any other women, such as cis women. However, social factors such as nutrition and training qualities can affect this result.

The report is an in-depth review of all existing scientific literature published between the years 2011 and 2021 in English regarding trans women in elite level sports. It clarified that biomedical factors do not pose any threat to cis athletes. Trans women do not have a biomedical advantage. This is the recurring myth transphobes continue to spread when debating the inclusion of trans people in sport."

So what DO we know about trans students? Well, we know from The Trevor Project(3) that more than half of all trans and non-binary youth in the US have seriously considered suicide, and these rates are higher where trans youth are actively discriminated against -- the way this bill proposes. And we know from the horrible murder of our trans citizens, including recently Meghan Riley Lewis in Bel Air, that hate and fear are real in Maryland.

HB47 protects no one, but it does endanger some of our most vulnerable youth. If you truly want to ensure fairness and protect our students, OPPOSE HB47 and make sure that hate has no home here in Maryland.

Thank you.

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(1) <https://www.frontiersin.org/.../fspor.2023.1224476/full>

(2) <https://www.gendergp.com/new-report-confirms-trans.../>

(3) <https://www.theguardian.com/.../us-trans-non-binary-youth...>