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Opposition Testimony to HB 47 - Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams - Designation Based on Sex

The Frederick Center, an LGBTQ+ community resource, education, support, and advocacy center joins the chorus of organizations including LGBTQ+ community centers across the state in opposition to HB 47, a bill simply designed to judge and shame transgender people in sports.

First, this bill deliberately simplifies biological sex to discriminate against transgender people and is not based in science. The National Institute of Health has concluded, "there is no direct or consistent research suggesting transgender female individuals have an athletic advantage at any stage of their transition." As one example, transgender women exhibit significantly lower testosterone levels than cisgender women with polycystic ovarian syndrome, which affects up to 12% of all cisgender women.

Next, this policy would be openly discriminatory against thousands of students in the Maryland public school system who are transgender. This issue touches every school system in our state and impacts so many young people. Additionally, the introduction of a discriminatory bill such as this has detrimental impacts on the health, safety, and well being of trans people all over the state.

Finally, this legislation seeks to once again conflate gender and sex. Regardless of the dozens of variations of sex organs, chromosomes, or other genetic markers that the bill sponsor refuses to acknowledge, gender is the only true marker of sense of ones self. So egregious is this conflation, the American Academy of Pediatrics has deemed withholding gender affirming care as, "child maltreatment," and, "harmful to children and amounts to state-sanctioned medical neglect and emotional abuse."

On behalf of The Frederick Center, we wish to apologize again to the transgender women and girls who once again are forced to defend themselves as they are used as a political tool to drum up unwarranted fear in our community.

We collectively hope that the bill's sponsor and co-sponsors take the time to reflect on the mental health crisis they are creating when deliberately targeting young girls this way. We not only hope this committee will provide an unfavorable report, but that the bill sponsor will withdraw the legislation for the safety of our children.

Sincerely,

Martin Scarborough

Martin Scarborough
Development Director

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Glorie Cassutto
Program Director

The Frederick Center exists to support and advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) people and our families so we thrive, accepted and affirmed, in the broader Frederick community.