

PLEASE SUPPORT HB 47, Fairness in Girls' Sports Act

It will address the issue of fairness by setting up separate sports teams or sports options for girls, boys, and coeducational or mixed categories.

It has been shown that teen girls are more prone to common sports-related injuries, such as ankle sprains, knee injuries, and stress fractures, and more life threatening or life changing injuries such as concussions. Males have physiological and performance advantages over females, including cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, speed, height, and stronger or larger bones. These and other physical anatomical differences influence their performance in specific sports such as swimming, volleyball, and marathon running. It is not a fair competition when teens of both genders are competing against each other.

Even in professional sports, there is a performance gap between biological males and females. For example, females' speed world records in various sports are all about 90% of males' records. (See www.GenderResourceGuide.com for links to many resources and facts. The guide is a collaboration between several organizations with very diverse political views, such as Wolf Women's Liberation Front, and the Heritage Foundation. They have one common concern - the negative consequences of treating bodily sex as irrelevant.)

Girls are losing competitions which negatively influence their chances of earning coveted sports titles, college scholarships, and gaining other opportunities. They have been subjected to boys in their locker rooms, sometimes flaunting their masculinity and at the very least embarrassing girls, and perhaps traumatizing and shaming them in deeper psychological ways.

Each of you received a brochure on January 11 entitled "Boys Competing in Girls' Sports: Is It Fair?" This brochure is well researched and contains many references to respected and legitimate articles, studies, government fact sheets, and testimonies from athletes. In fact one of the sources noted is the Maryland General Assembly itself, when in 2015, the bipartisan Task Force to Study Sports Injuries in High School Female Athletes stated that the gender differences can place females at higher risk of certain injuries, as noted above.

I urge you to read this brochure carefully. Many other news reports and interviews on various platforms over the past many months also have corroborated these facts, as have legitimate scientific and medical sources.

See also www.GenderResourceGuide.com, noted above. I believe we all need to be educated on the scientific facts surrounding this issue.

I personally was not involved in school sponsored sports in high school. Options for girls were very few in the late 1960's. Title IX made a huge impact on girls' opportunities, not only in girls' learning sports and competing in sports, but in increased self-esteem, broadened interests and perspectives, development of new relationships, and channeling girls' efforts and energies into positive areas. Title IX provisions gave girls opportunities to earn scholarships to college and awards. HB 47 will preserve many of the positive advances and impacts on girls in this generation.

Not passing HB 47 into law will have far-reaching negative effects. Especially now, when adolescents are spending so much time on social media, often to their detriment, participation in sports should be encouraged and promoted. Girls are discouraged and angry and unsafe when they cannot compete with a fair chance to win, or know they will be subjected to sharing locker rooms with boys, shamed by some boys, etc. We cannot estimate the damage that this current trend is inflicting on our high school girls during these important years in their development.

Please find a solution to this crucial issue by mandating separate teams for each biological gender, and mixed teams for those students who prefer that option. It is a matter of fairness for opportunities for girls, support for Title IX, and a protection for girls from physical and perhaps psychological injury.

PLEASE VOTE FOR A FAVORABLE REPORT FOR HB 47.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this very important issue.

Very truly yours,

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