

January 29, 2024

Ways & Means Committee

Marland General Assembly House

Dear Delegates,

I would like to add my support of Bill HB 0047. I believe strongly that girls should have the chance to compete in athletics in a fair and safe environment. By allowing biological boys to compete against biological girls, both of these elements are put in jeopardy.

Biological boys, even if they have undergone hormone suppressing treatment, have physical attributes that make competition with girls unfair and unsafe. Boys are stronger, have longer reach, have greater heart and lung capacity, to name a few. We have seen many well publicized cases of boys taking positions on teams and trophies away from hard-working girls. We have also seen several cases of boys injuring their opponents while playing on girls' teams.

When I was growing up the only "athletic" achievement for girls in my high school was to be a cheerleader and cheer for the boys' athletic teams. Due to Title IX, my daughters were able to compete in their own sport (one in field hockey and soccer, the other in spring board diving). Gone were the days of girls having to step aside and act in a subservient manner to the boys' teams. However, we are now moving backward. By allowing biological boys to compete on girls' team, we are allowing these boys to once again take center stage and forcing girls to watch from the sidelines.

Thank you,

Elisabeth Connors

Easton, MD