

Testimony in Opposition of HB 757

Education – Interscholastic and Intramural Teams and Sports – Designation Based on Biological Sex (Save Women’s Sports Act)

Ways and Means Committee

22 February 2022

Elizabeth Ann Campbell Vidreiro
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Chair Vanessa Atterbeary and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the chance to testify in opposition of House Bill 757.

I am an educator in the Howard County Public School System, and this year I have the honor of co-leading my school’s GSA (Gender and Sexuality Alliance). Over the 11 years of my teaching career at Ellicott Mills Middle School, I have witnessed transgender and gender nonconforming students become more and more comfortable and confident in being their authentic selves. If bills such as this one are introduced, I believe they will shame our students into going back into the metaphorical closet. This would be a huge step in the wrong direction for our students and our society as a whole. Our identities should be recognized, celebrated, and honored.

Considering sports specifically, some argue that people who are assigned male at birth have a physical advantage over people who are assigned female at birth. Although there may be some truth to this claim for adults, the difference in athleticism between girls and boys before puberty is almost negligible. Additionally, most kids play sports for fun. Kids—whether transgender or cisgender—should not have their bodies questioned or invasively examined in order to verify their gender to play sports for fun. If they do progress to an elite level where biological differences *might* be more relevant, other regulations will govern that.

Please do your part to support all girls, including—but not limited to—those who may be transgender, intersex, or gender nonconforming. I strongly urge you to oppose HB 757.

Thank you for your consideration,



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