



LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

Bill: HB 0757 Education- Interscholastic and Intramural Teams and Sports- Designation Based on Biological Sex

Organization: PFLAG Salisbury Inc., PO Box 5107, Salisbury Maryland 21802

Submitted by: Michele Copper, Board Member

Position: **UNFAVORABLE**

SALISBURY PFLAG OPPOSES DESIGNATION OF INTERSCHOLASTIC AND INTERMURAL TEAMS AND SUPPORTS BASED ON BIOLOGICAL SEX

I am submitting this testimony **OPPOSING** HB 0757 on behalf of PFLAG Salisbury, the Salisbury, Maryland Chapter of PFLAG National.

There is no scientific rationale for HB 0757. Transgender children, like all children, vary in athletic ability. There is *no evidence* that transgender student athletes affect the fairness or competition of sports (ACLU, 2020).

HB 0757 is psychologically harmful to children. Gender is central to how children see themselves (American Psychological Association, 2015). Transgender girls are girls. They are not boys and do not belong on boys' teams. Requiring transgender youth to athletically compete on teams based on their sex/gender assigned at birth is the same as banning them from athletic competition entirely (ACLU, 2020).

All youth should have access to the benefits of sports. Science finds participation in sports results in positive outcomes, such as better grades, greater homework completion, higher educational and occupational aspirations, and improved self-esteem (Darling et al., 2005; Fredericks & Eccles, 2006; Marsh & Kleitman, 2003; Nelson, & Gordon-Larsen, 2006; Ortega et al., 2008; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2008). Denying transgender youth access to these benefits is discrimination.

Excluding some girls from sports runs contrary to the goals of sport. Excluding any subset of girls from sports encourages divisiveness and compromises group cohesion, undermining the benefits all youth deserve from team sports (ACLU, 2020).

Professional organizations publicly support transgender and nonbinary students' full and equal participation in sports, including the National Coalition for Women & Girls in Education and the American Psychological Association.

For additional resources supporting our position, see

<https://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/policy/issues/transgender-exclusion-sports>

HB0757 is discriminatory, not rooted in science, runs contrary to the purpose of youth sports, and is publicly opposed by professional organizations with expertise in child development. Therefore, PFLAG Salisbury Inc. opposes this legislation and recommends an UNFAVORABLE report in committee.