

February 22, 2022

**Written Testimony Unfavorable to HB0757:
Education – Interscholastic and Intramural Teams and Sports – Designation Based on
Biological Sex (Save Women’s Sports Act)**

Delegate Atterbeary, Chair, Delegate Washington, Vice-Chair, and esteemed members of the Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Shelley Ogata Romm, and my pronouns are she/her. I am the parent of a transgender athlete in Montgomery County, Maryland. I submit this unfavorable testimony today for HB0757.

This dangerous and unjust legislation would require interscholastic and intramural athletic teams or sports in public and private schools be expressly designated based on biological sex.

I fully oppose HB0757, and ask for an unfavorable report from the committee.

I have personally seen the positive impact on the mental health of trans youth when they participate fully in life as their authentic gender. Forcing someone to live life and participate in athletics and/or PE based on their biological sex does immeasurable damage. Trans youth and teens have no advantage over cisgender youth when participating in sports. As the parent of a transgender son and cisgender daughter, I would want any trans youth in activities and sports in which they are involved to be participating with both of my children based on their gender, not their biological sex.

Out of consideration for the mental and physical health, as well as the equitable treatment of transgender and nonbinary students in the state of Maryland, **I urge you to issue an unfavorable report for HB0370: Education – Interscholastic and Intramural Teams and Sports – Designation Based on Biological Sex (Save Women’s Sports Act).**

Sincerely,

Shelley Ogata Romm
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