

To: The members of the Education, Energy and Environment Committee

Fr: Sandy Tuttle, resident of Montgomery County

Re: SB 381 Fairness in Girls Sports Act

Date: February 6, 2024

I am writing to ask members of the committee to support SB 381, Fairness in Girls' Sports Act. This is all about keeping girls safe in sports and nothing more. This is not about hate, or exclusion as those opposed to this commonsense legislation would have you believe.

SB 381 applies only to high school intramural junior varsity and varsity teams. It provides for three types of sports/teams: Girls', Boys' and coeducational or mixed team or sports. It provides athletic opportunities for all students.

We have seen in recent years, the injuries sustained by girls/women in sports inflicted when men or boys identifying as girls are allowed to play on the same team. One recent example, late last year, was a young woman playing field hockey who had her teeth knocked out by a male on an opposing team. This was allowed because of Massachusetts's Equal Play Act, allowing males or males who are transgender, to play on female teams. There is NOTHING 'equal' about this law or ones like it. We all know that males and females are not the same when it comes to strength and power. It is simply not a fair competition for biological females to have to compete against biological males, regardless of their sexual identity preference or declaration

Those science-deniers will result in someone getting very hurt.

As a mental health professional, I can tell you it is likely that this young lady, referenced previously, will be dealing with the trauma sustained because of this injury for a long time to come. This is just one of many examples we are hearing about, with lives changed and not for the better.

Please do the right thing by our girls and boys and support this legislation.