

Hello Mr. Chairman, Madam Vice Chair and Members of the Committee. My name is Rain Ritchey and I am fourteen years old. I am writing to you all in strong support for Senate Bill 381 Fairness in Girl Sports Act. I'm a student athlete that goes to Northern Middle School in Garrett County. I'm an athlete that just wants everyone to have a voice but in the right way. I feel like girls in the past have struggled to achieve equality in sports. Having separate teams for girls was a milestone in history. It has allowed us to have recruitment and scholarship opportunities. These opportunities are put in harm's way when females are competing against biological boys. It's not fair to girls that have worked hard to become the best athlete they can be and it to be taken away. This would set girls sports back years when we have worked so hard for this opportunity for young girls everywhere. Not only is it setting girls' sports back years, it also creates an unsafe environment where girls don't feel like they can play the sports they have loved their entire life. Genetically boys are stronger and faster than girls. Boys also are less likely to experience more serious injuries such as fractures, concussions while girls are at higher risk of injuries. With these advantages boys have it puts young girls at more of a risk to potentially experience one of these many injuries. There have been many incidents where girls have been subjected to uncomfortable locker room sharing which has also led in some cases criminal behavior. All you hear about is equality for everyone but how is putting biological boys in girls sports equal for us? I can understand how hard it is to find a place where you fit in, but forcing girls to give up their place to accommodate transgender athletes is just another example of why girls are still considered a minority.