



## **SB0381 Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams - Designation Based on Sex (Fairness In Girls' Sports Act)**

*Thursday, February 1, 2024*

EDUCATION, ENERGY, & THE ENVIRONMENT

### **OPPOSE**

Our names are Mara Babb, Subhashi Pradhan, Noor Chaudhry, and Julien Halleman, and we are students of Anne Arundel County and executive board members of the Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils (CRASC). We are writing in opposition to SB381 Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams - Designation Based on Sex (Fairness In Girls' Sports Act). If passed, this bill mandates that interscholastic or intramural athletic teams sponsored by public or nonpublic high schools must be explicitly categorized by biological sex as either male, female, or coeducational, thereby preventing individuals identifying as female from joining male teams and vice versa.

The proposal set forth by SB381 bears the weight of division rather than the promise of fairness. By mandating the strict segregation of sports teams based on biological sex, SB381 reinforces the false premise that women are inherently inferior to men in athletic competition. This ignorant belief not only undermines the accomplishments and potential of female athletes but also serves to limit their opportunities for growth and advancement in the sporting world. Additionally, this inhibits male athletes in sports like gymnastics, where nearly half of the nationally ranked participants are men, despite the sport being predominantly broadcasted with a focus on female competitors. Instilling such ideologies during the formative years of students proves detrimental to both young women and men alike. It leads female students to believe that they are less capable than males, fostering feelings of inadequacy. Simultaneously, it ingrains in male students a tendency to undermine their female peers, perpetuating harmful gender biases that extend beyond the realm of athletics and into various aspects of life including academics and professional pursuits, hindering societal progress towards true gender equality.

Furthermore, this bill especially targets transgender students. Despite recent progress in Maryland schools towards creating inclusive environments that celebrate students' identities, such as the implementation of gender-neutral facilities in Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS), this bill threatens to reverse this progress through supporting outdated and exclusionary practices that will isolate and marginalize transgender youth. By drawing stark lines based solely on biology, SB381 highlights a binary view of gender that fails to acknowledge the nuanced realities of human identity. As advocates for inclusivity and equality, it is essential to oppose this bill and instead support policies that promote acceptance, respect, and equal opportunities for all students in athletics and beyond—regardless of gender identity.

The CRASC Legislative Department refers back to the following relevant clauses of the CRASC Platform:

- *CRASC Opposes*... Discrimination of any form based on race, sex, age, national origin, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socioeconomic status; (Plank X, Clause A)
- *CRASC Supports*...Promotion of a safe and inclusive school environment; (Plank V, Clause D)

Accordingly, CRASC respectfully requests a **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB381.

Respectfully Submitted,

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