



**Maryland Commission  
on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

**TESTIMONY OF JEREMY BROWNING  
DIRECTOR, MARYLAND COMMISSION ON LGBTQIA+ AFFAIRS  
UNFAVORABLE STATEMENT ON HB0047  
EDUCATION - INTERSCHOLASTIC AND INTRAMURAL JUNIOR VARSITY AND  
VARSITY TEAMS - DESIGNATION BASED ON SEX**

**January 31, 2024**

Ways and Means Committee

The Hon. Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair  
The Hon. Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Vice Chair

Chair Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee, my name is Jeremy Browning(he/him), and I am the Director of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs. The Commission was created by the 2021 Maryland General Assembly and later altered in 2023 to assess challenges facing our LGBTQIA+ communities, establish best practices and recommendations for LGBTQIA+ inclusion, and provide testimony to legislative and administrative bodies.

The Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs is in strong opposition to House Bill 47, Fairness in Girls' Sports Act. This proposed legislation, despite its name, does not promote fairness. Instead, it institutionalizes discrimination and exclusion against transgender and intersex women and girls in sports. Additionally, this approach not only disregards the rights and dignity of transgender women and girls but also places an undue emphasis on the bodies of all girls, women, and athletes assigned female at birth, potentially subjecting them to invasive and degrading physical examinations.

Along with my written testimony, I have submitted the *2024 Policy Priorities, Recommendations and Best Practices*, and *Recommendations for Supporting LGBTQIA+ Students* publications, which were unanimously approved by the Commission in 2023. Both publications support the position of major medical institutions and leading athletic organizations on inclusion of transgender and intersex women and girls in sports.

On behalf of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs, I urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 47.