

January 31 2024

The Honorable Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary, Chairman  
And Members of the Ways & Means Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: **HB047** – Education – Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Team Designation Based on Sex (Fairness in Girls' Sports Act) -- **SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Atterbeary and Members,

I am representing 400 members from the Montgomery County Federation of Republican Women. We strongly support the Fairness in Girls' Sports Act. Maryland lags behind other states in creating legislation like HB047. There are 21 states that have recognized through legislation that women's sports are for women and it is time that Maryland take a stand on this issue, standing with women and women's rights to play sports the way women's sports were intended-with females and not with males who identify as females.

Members of the Ways and Means Committee, you must not take this bill lightly. You represent voters and you need to know how they feel about this issue. A Goucher poll released in June, 2023 shows that 69% of Americans say that transgender athletes should only be allowed to compete on sports teams that correspond with the sex they were assigned at birth. This percentage has grown by 7% from a Gallup Poll in 2021, where 62% shared the same views. <sup>1</sup>

Every Maryland legislator received a pamphlet that MFRW members gave to you or a staff member in your office. There is a lot of info in this pamphlet and I hope you read it before voting on this important bill.

Last year I testified on a similar common sense bill and could not believe what I heard in response: Committee members apologized to the opposers of this bill for having to waste their time. Even a Republican sponsor of this bill told the hearing attendees not to worry, that this bill would not pass. And January 11 of this year, as fellow MFRW members distributed our legislative priorities to our legislators, we were told by the House Minority Whip that this bill was highly unlikely to pass even though it is an issue that most legislators support. Why?

Just as you, we empathize with transgender athletes and agree that they should be able to participate in sports, so create a new category for them or allow them to compete according to their gender assigned at birth.

Women **MUST** be protected. Ignoring this bill could mean that your own daughter, granddaughter or niece:

- may be subjected to undressing in a locker room with transgenders with fully intact genitalia

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<sup>1</sup> \*Goucher Poll article:  
<https://www.nbcnews.com/nbc-out/out-news/americans-oppose-inclusion-trans-athletes-sports-poll-finds-rcna88940>

- could become seriously injured by a biological male opponent, as it is proven that boys and men have more strength overall (even on hormones) than girls and women, or or could suffer mental anguish years later from unfair losses <sup>2</sup>
- may be deprived of scholarships, awards or medals after an unfair loss to a biological male.

There are thousands of young women, some of whom are hoping to earn college scholarships and shatter records, who are counting on you to support their ability to compete fairly among biological females.

For these reasons, we urge you file a **favorable** report.

Sincerely,

Laurie Halverson, Board Member and past President  
Montgomery County Federation of Republican Women  
lsh2727@verizon.net

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<sup>2</sup> \*A 2021 paper from the **British Journal of Sports Medicine** found transgender women were still 12 percent faster than their biological counterparts two years after beginning feminizing hormone therapy. They also found transgender men were 15 percent slower and were able to do 43 percent fewer push-ups than biological rivals.

\*A **review** published in August 2022 also suggested that transgender women had a biological advantage over their peers.

It concluded: 'Given that sports are currently segregated into male and female divisions because of superior male athletic performance, and that estrogen therapy will not reverse most athletic performance parameters, it follows that transgender women will enter the female division with an inherent advantage because of their prior male physiology.'

\***Another study** published late last year found they were still stronger than biological women even after a decade on hormones.