
Planned Parenthood of Maryland

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Bill number: SB 588 - Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Sports - Designation (Fairness in Girls' Sports Act)

Hearing Date: March 5, 2024

Position: Oppose

Planned Parenthood of Maryland strongly opposes *Senate Bill 588 - Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Sports - Designation (Fairness in Girls' Sports Act)*. The bill requires public and private high schools to maintain single-sex sports teams, defines sex as biological, and creates a private right of action for students “deprived of an athletic opportunity” because of a violation of the law.

This bill does not create fairness in sports. It does perpetuate a history of stigma and discrimination against transgender and nonbinary students. The bill would also violate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. It has long been the position of the state of Maryland to affirm that Title IX prohibits discrimination against transgender students in any educational program or activity offered by a school.

In a 2022 survey, the Trevor Project found that nearly 1 in 5 transgender or nonbinary student had contemplated suicide during the past year.ⁱ The survey further finds that LGBTQ youth who found their school to be affirming reported lower rates of attempting suicide. Thus, we must oppose SB 588 and similar measures while continuing to work towards more supportive environments in schools for transgender and nonbinary youth.

As providers of gender-affirming care, we stand with our patients and ask for an unfavorable vote on SB 588. If we can provide any further information, please contact Erin Bradley, Vice President of Public Affairs, at Erin.Bradley@ppm.care or (443) 604-3544.

ⁱ https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2022/assets/static/trevor01_2022survey_final.pdf