

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Senate Bill 588
UNFAVORABLE

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee;

Please give Senate Bill 588 an Unfavorable report.

Discrimination against transgender people is at an all-time high, with transgender people being erased from history, and losing civil rights protections and healthcare. The government is now even allowed to spy on people simply for being Queer. This is yet another bill designed to harm transgender people. Additionally, this bill is nearly identical to House Bill 156, which received an unfavorable report. Even though the Ways and Means Committee has traditionally limited testimony on bills that are being reheard, including Chair-sponsored bills, the proponents of House Bill 156 threw a very public fit that they couldn't line up supporters to make blatantly bigoted, transphobic comments. Thus, a very slightly different bill is now being heard in your committee so that the haters can do as much as possible to harm transgender children.

Senate Bill 588 targets the handful of transgender athletes in the schools, and supporters will make those students out to be violent bullies. This bill also harms intersex students. There are more than two biological sexes, and intersex students don't fall into the male/ female biological sex designations of this bill. Their very existence doesn't match the scientifically incorrect ideology of transphobes, so they are erased completely. This bill would prevent intersex students from participating in school sports at all. This bill also ignores the many body size and strength differences among cisgender students. Since some students in JV sports have gone through puberty and some haven't, should schools be forced to divide students based on that rather than by age and grade? What about genetic mutations that can improve the performances of some athletes? Should they be disqualified from participating in sports? This bill doesn't bother to cover any of the many things that are more likely to affect performance than being transgender is. That is more evidence that this bill exists only to harm transgender people, especially children, putting them at higher risk of self-harm. As can be, and has been, said about a great many Republican policies throughout this country, the cruelty is the point.

Please reject bigotry by voting against Senate Bill 588. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Debi Jasen
Pasadena, MD