

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB588
FAIRNESS IN GIRLS SPORTS ACT**

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Senate EEE Committee

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Dear Members of the Committee,

You probably have heard about biological boys playing on girl's competitive high school teams, and of how well they perform, even at the college and international level. But, if science proves males have physical, muscular, circulatory and respiratory physiological advantages, is that fair to biological girls who they are playing with or against? It also begs the question, "Why is there no fuss about girls playing on boys competitive teams?" Is it because males are not threatened by females due to the above mentioned physiological advantages?

Maybe you have already made up your mind, if it's fair or right, but as I am always eager to learn about an issue, I trust you are too. It was quite enlightening when I visited Delegate and Senate offices this session and spoke to members and staff how many were supportive of this bill. Some were parents, some were athletes, some knew the science of birth sex that makes us different. Some live in a bubble of voices that have made this only a civil rights issue for transgenders, dismissing the rights and dreams and mental health of girls to compete fairly and safely, and appreciated the further information.

Why can't a trans-identifying female compete fairly with biological females?

When comparing the two sexes, hormones are a measurable determining factor. Two years of hormone therapy before puberty can draw the physical aspects of the sexes closer, but not equal. Changing how we look on the outside is easier than our organs on the inside. Male lungs can oxygenate/respire at a higher level, and their heart muscle circulates blood faster. This is an advantage when the body is handling the stress of high performance. Scientific studies show that young males at the age of 6, before puberty, have significant advantages over females in cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, speed and power tests.

The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA), in their guide for participation in interscholastic athletics states:

Principle #3: "The integrity of women's sports should be preserved"

Principle #5: "Policies governing the participation in sports should be FAIR in light of the tremendous variation among individuals in strength, size, musculature and ability"

There is a reason why different rules and equipment apply to many single-sex competitive sports which are based on biological sex – such as lacrosse, golf,

**volleyball, basketball and gymnastics. TEAMS BASED ON BIOLOGICAL SEX
CREATE THE FAIREST COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT. Bodies play sports.**

God creates all of us special and loved, and it is not in our job description to judge how each other is made. Tiny atoms of DNA, and the male and female sexes designed to fit together for reproduction is truly miraculous! Chromosomes dictate what we are, and a Y chromosome cannot be changed by any surgical procedure or systemic therapy.

Not everyone can win in competitive sports - this is not about a participation trophy - but I hope the win that comes out of this is that High School biological girls, who have mental health and physical issues too, and dreams and goals, are given a chance to prove themselves against their same sex, and that opportunities for fair and safe competition are made available to all through rules, equipment and categories appropriate for the players.

The momentum for this action, to allow competitive sports to be based on meritocracy and excellence within a single sex, is growing nationwide, with 26 states so far passing or introducing legislation. The MGA loves to either follow other states, or set an example, so either way, the time to do so is now!

Thank you for your respect of all, acknowledgment of our biological differences, and courage to support opportunities for females in competitive sports.

Debbie Yatsuk

- **Mother of 3 daughters that played competitive sports**
- **Competitive rower where classifications are by sex, and then age and weight within**