

I am Beth Harvey, from Washington County, and I am writing to support of HB 0156 the Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams - Designation Based on Sex (Fairness in Girls' Sports Act). Scientifically there are two sexes to be known from ultrasounds around 12 weeks gestationally: male and female. The science is further confirmed after birth as boys and girls require different diapering care as they grow. The entire world is aware of the differences between males and females, shown in the marketing of colors, toys, clothing, cartoons, cutlery designs—you name it, there is a 'boy' version of pull up training pants with the Incredible Hulk; and a 'girl' version with Minnie Mouse. Gender neutral items—from birth—are incredibly scarce and such the sexual identity either male or female is clear from the womb.

However in recent years a minority of media, artists, elected leaders and other visible influencers have sought to amplify a very sad mental illness where children are suddenly unsure of their biological and genetic makeup and encouraged by their parents to change their sex. Since pop culture has taken to an idea that gender and sex is suddenly selective, science is being eroded. The need for legislation to protect fairness in girls' sports seems ironic from learned leaders—the majority of which have college degrees and have completed years of science, biology and anatomy, however in 2024 a law seems to be required for girls to fairly compete against biological women and thus I am writing to express my support that girls' sports specifically be protected in Maryland for biologically born females.

Before the 1970s athletic women were marginalized into school sports with skirts or leotards—such as cheerleading or gymnastics. It took great efforts of women lobbying their local community and ultimately the President of the United States to pass Title IX protections for opening sport competition for girls that previously only our fathers or brothers had been eligible to play. Through many continued efforts, fundraisers, training and lobbying girls sports grew from volleyball, tennis and swimming to basketball and boxing. Now nearly all Olympic sports allow for women to enter competitions akin to male counterparts, however separate due to the biological nature that differentiates men with an xy chromosome and women with an xx chromosome (cited: NIH National Library of Medicine, Chromosomal Sex Determination in Mammals, 2000).

I am not anti-trans, I am pro-woman with a capital XX.

In high school my group of girl friends wanted to play lacrosse. We were denied an opportunity to try out or play for the boys team due to increase of injury competing with and against our peers who were stronger, faster and hit and threw harder. We were encouraged to lobby for a club team to prove there was interest for a team and offered incentives to grow a girls lacrosse team from there.

I went to lobby the Board of Education for the cost of paying a coach (who was a male science teacher) and was successful so that year girls cub lacrosse began with practices, scrimmages and actually the school has a girls lacrosse program to this day.

It is interesting to me that I don't see transactivists, parents of trans children lobbying for trans club sports to prove interest for various team sports with an offered incentive grow. What I see are xy boys dressing as girls demanding to compete on women's sports teams, gaining an unfair competitive advantage and eroding decades of hard work, training and continued performance of xx girls and their coaches, sponsors, boosters and parents and unapologetically undermining every activity that true women have fought long and hard for.

It is a monumentally unfair advantage for biologically male athletes to compete against biological women.

Confidence is key in encouraging girls to train as athletes and compete in sports and a place on the team is never guaranteed—after tryouts the weak athletes are often cut so the team can best succeed. When a female loses a spot on a team to a biological male counterpart it goes against Title IX and the efforts that women have made for generations.

The science of male verses female is notable even by looking at the eyes! (cited: Elevation Vision, Exploring the Fascinating Difference in How Men and Women See Colors, August 30, 2023). In fact, ophthalmology exams can now determine whether the eye belongs to a girl or a male further accentuating that there are a myriad of differences between those with XX verses XY DNA. Biological men with XY chromosomes identifying as XX chromosome women is anti-science.

Males identifying as females are often consuming a concoction of drugs to camouflage their sex. Drugs in sports my entire life has been considered 'doping' and a disqualification that has recently been abandoned for the cry of 'inclusion'. This is anti-health for an athlete.

Supporting physiology and anatomy and basic biology is a must with impressionable school age children.

Girls have a hard enough time as it is, in 2022 the NCAA reported a mere 0.006 % of the U.S. population are girls who play NCAA sports, the total number of middle and high school athletes is a tiny percentage of the overall US population that should not be undermined.

I urge you to protect girls' sports by allowing only biological women with XX markers at birth to compete in girls sports and to pass HB0156.