

Joyce Toal

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HB 156

I am in favor of HB 156. I played soccer as a youth through college. I understand how physical sports can be. Many times, my team of all females would scrimmage a male counterpart team. There was not a single time my team was able to keep up with the male team. They were physically bigger, faster, and played a different type of game than my all-female teams. In high school my team scrimmaged the boys varsity team and one of my teammates broke her leg. Our AD banned the girls and boys teams scrimmaging each other after what had happened.

As much as the MSDE and the MD Health Department would like everyone to believe that allowing boys, who “identify” as girls, to play girls sports is acceptable, it is not. There is no amount of hormone treatment that can take away from the fact that trans athletes were biologically born male. They have male traits. Males are predominantly bigger, stronger, and faster than most women. It is ludicrous to think by masking the way a male looks and talks that it somehow takes away from the fact they are biological males.

In Oct 2020 the UN reported that biological females have lost nearly 900 medals to trans athletes. How many scholarships, opportunities, and accolades will young female athletes lose out on because they are having to compete with men who identify as women? How many young women will be injured because they are forced to compete with and against young men who identify as female? How many young women will be made to feel uncomfortable sharing a locker room with a young man who identifies as female? 1% of our population is trans yet the law is making this enormous exception that forces young women (51% of our population) to compete with males. It is unacceptable.

Just two weeks ago the US House of Representatives passed legislation that would ban transgender women from competing on teams consistent with their gender identity. Now the people of Maryland who understand there are only 2 sexes must fight for young female athletes in this state because their voices have been silenced.

I am in favor of HB 156. It will save sports for young female athletes in Maryland.

Thank you for your time,

Joyce Toal