

January 27, 2025

Ways and Means Committee

HB0156

Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams -
Designation Based on Sex (Fairness in Girls" Sports Act)

Unfavorable

Dear Committee Members,

I am a mother of two teen daughters in Maryland, and a former school athlete. Team sports are vital for girls and their development, and I want these programs to be strong and available to every girl. I believe this misguided bill is an attempt to protect girls and their athletic programs, but it will not accomplish this.

This bill does nothing to protect sports and the girls that play them. In fact, it puts all of them in dangerous positions. I urge you consider the consequences of passing a bill like this. How will girls be required to prove their biological sex in order to participate? Will this come down to requiring invasive physical exams? Some girls will understandably just drop out rather than submit to these kinds of requirements, losing access over fear of what allowing other children to participate will do to them. This will not help any girls at all and will harm many. Please reject this bill.

Sincerely,

Anne Gonnella