

Dear MD House Ways and Means Committee,

I believe there are biological differences in strength and athletic ability between males (XY) and females (XX). At a certain age the difference between males and females makes safety a concern if males were to compete with females in physical sports. In fact, there have already been cases where males playing on girls teams in field hockey and volleyball have severely injured female players. While accidents can happen, the musculoskeletal difference between males and females makes the severity of these accidents much higher. That is one of the many reasons we differentiate our sports in the first place. Examples of the differences that lead to greater injury are greater skeletal muscle fiber composition and bone size and sturdiness in males.

Transgender females deserve the same respect and protection from discrimination that any one should have. However, this is a safety concern, as well as fairness, and I don't view this as discriminatory-- only biological reality. The committee should amend this bill to account for intersex people using the latest science and best judgement as to whether girls are at increased physical risk.

The committee should also consider additional divisions in sports in addition to male and female so that transgender people have the same opportunity to play athletic sports.

Thank you,
Ryan Powers

3646 Sharp Rd.
Glenwood, MD 21738