

HB 0156: Fairness In Girls' Sports Act

Ways and Means Committee

Hearing: Wednesday, January 8, 2025

Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

As a parent and teacher, I strongly urge you to OPPOSE HB 0156 due to its lack of clarity on what determines a student's biological sex to be female or male. Who will determine which students are female enough to play on a girls' sports team and by what metrics? Will athletes be subjected to genital inspections by referees or the opposing team's coaches?

Does every athlete have to present their birth certificate at every game to prove they were assigned female at birth? In common everyday practice, the sex that is assigned to a baby is determined by a doctor or midwife at time of birth by quick visual inspection of the external genitalia. However, in cases of intersex individuals or other genital abnormalities, that determination is definitely not objective. In some individuals, the external reproductive structures do not match the internal reproductive organs and/or the person's chromosomes. That means that by the time an individual goes through puberty, their sex assigned at birth may no longer align with the hormones produced in their body.

The proponents of this bill argued that individuals who are going through or have gone through male puberty pose a danger to female players due to their size, strength, etc. If "biologically female" means a person assigned female at birth, then this act will allow transgender boys who are taking male hormones and are going through male puberty to play on girls' sports teams. That seems directly contradictory to the intention of this bill, as trans boys would then be taller, stronger, etc. than the cisgendered girls on their team and the opposing teams, posing exactly the "danger" proposed to be caused by trans girls on female teams.

This bill is a thinly veiled attempt to discriminate against trans girls, without any acknowledgement that trans boys even exist. I ask that legislators familiarize themselves with the full range of gender-affirming medical care for all genders and give HB 0156 an UNFAVORABLE report at this time.

Sincerely,
Miriam Snare
Nottingham, MD