



**Maryland Commission
on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

Bill Title: Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams - Designation Based on Sex (Fairness In Girls' Sports Act)

Bill Number(s): [HB0156](#)

Position: UNFAVORABLE

Date: January 27, 2025

Submitted by: Jeremy Browning, Director of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs

To:

House Ways and Means Committee

The Hon. Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
The Hon. Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Vice Chair

Testimony on behalf of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs:

The Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs, created by the Maryland General Assembly, works to serve LGBTQIA+ Marylanders by galvanizing community voices, researching and addressing challenges, and advocating for policies that advance equity and inclusion. The Commission envisions a Maryland where all LGBTQIA+ people can live full and authentic lives. As a vital resource, the Commission collaborates with public officials, agencies, and community partners to ensure the rights and dignity of LGBTQIA+ Marylanders are protected and respected.

The Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs is in strong opposition to House Bill 156, Fairness in Girls' Sports Act. This proposed legislation, despite its name, does not promote fairness. Instead, it institutionalizes discrimination and exclusion against transgender and intersex women and girls in sports. Additionally, this approach not only disregards the rights and dignity of transgender women and girls but also places an undue emphasis on the bodies of all girls, women, and athletes assigned female at birth, potentially subjecting them to invasive and degrading physical examinations.

Leading medical institutions, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Association, and American Psychological Association, strongly support the inclusion of transgender youth in activities that align with their gender identity, recognizing the critical role participation plays in mental health and overall well-being. Excluding transgender athletes is harmful and unsupported by evidence, as confirmed by these organizations.

We must emphasize that HB156 perpetuates stigma and discrimination against transgender and intersex individuals, further marginalizing them in areas that should foster growth, camaraderie, and opportunity.

For these reasons, the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs strongly urges an unfavorable report on House Bill 156.