

January 29, 2025

Annapolis, Maryland

RE: **HB156 -SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman of Committee:

I strongly support the Fairness in Girls' Sports Act. Maryland lags behind other states in creating legislation like HB156.

First of all, I would like to remind you that the government works for the people and the people should have the avenue to testify in public so that their representatives have the chance to hear their views. Instead, you have chosen to stifle our views by limiting the testimony to only one person. This is so appalling. The hubris of the Democrat party in Maryland in how they ignore conservative views is a big reason why I have chosen to move out of the state of Maryland this year after living here for 28 years. I have testified in person on this issue the past two years even though we were shamed by members of the committee the first year and the committee permitted a testifier last year to call supporters of the bill "evil."

There are 27 states that have recognized through legislation that women's sports are for women. Because of the gender identity trends and an increasing number of unfair and unsafe incidents we are seeing today, it is now necessary for Maryland to codify that women's sports are for biological females.

As representatives of your districts, it is important to know how people feel about this issue. A Gallup poll released in June, 2023 shows that 69% of Americans say that transgender athletes should only be allowed to compete on sports teams that correspond with the sex they were assigned at birth. This percentage has grown by 7% from a Gallup Poll in 2021, where 62% shared the same views. <sup>1</sup>

Just as you, we empathize with transgender athletes and agree that they should be able to participate in sports, so create a new category for them or allow them to compete according to their gender assigned at birth.

While you may be hearing from representatives from the LGBTQ+ community, not all LGBTQ citizens agree with the opposers of this bill:

Maria Navratilova: "Come on - women's tennis is not for failed male athletes- whatever age. This is not right and it is not fair."

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<sup>1</sup> \*Gallup Poll article:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/nbc-out/out-news/americans-oppose-inclusion-trans-athletes-sports-poll-finds-rcna88940>

Caitlyn Jenner: “That’s why I oppose biological boys who are trans competing in girls’ sports in school. It just isn’t fair. And we have to protect girls’ sports in our schools,”

It is conceivable that with current state policies, a team of all-transgender women could compete for the state title in high school women’s basketball. I read the MPSSAA Guidance for Participation of Transgender Youth in Interscholastic Athletics and this seems like the only guidance our state has on this issue, and the guidance is vague. Passing this bill would set parameters in place that protect women and ensure fair competition.

There are thousands of young women, some of whom are hoping to earn college scholarships and shatter records, who are counting on you to support their ability to compete safely and fairly.

For these reasons, we urge you file a **favorable** report.

Sincerely,

Laurie Halverson  
District 15 (Potomac, MD)