



January 27, 2025

**Board of Directors**

**Chair**

Joe Toolan  
(he/him)

**Vice-Chair**

Jake Trudeau  
(he/him)

**Treasurer**

Dennis McGowan  
(he/him)

**Secretary**

Valerie Anias  
(she/her)

John Crestwell  
(he/him)

Christine Feldmann  
(she/her)

Mastin Fowler  
(he/him)

Ronan Franc  
(he/they)

Hilarey Leonard  
(she/her)

Eric Lund  
(he/him)

Nicole McCoy  
(she/her)

Jessica Parsell  
(she/her)

Jayne Walters  
(she/her)

Tim Williams  
(he/him)

**BILL:** House Bill 0156  
**DATE:** January 29, 2025  
**POSITION:** UNFAVORABLE  
**COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means  
**CONTACT:** Joe Toolan, joe@annapolispride.org

Annapolis Pride's mission is to advocate for, empower, and celebrate the LGBTQ+ community in Anne Arundel County to live fully and authentically. Our vision is a safe, equitable, and anti-racist community where people of all identities thrive.

As such, Annapolis Pride opposes House Bill 0156. The bill fails in its stated purpose on scientific grounds and only serves to exclude trans and gender non-conforming youth from participating in team sports. Their rights to participate in sports, like any other student, should be respected. Additionally, trans youth, like all youth, vary in physical characteristics and athletic ability, as such there is no evidence that confirms the belief that trans student athletes affect the fairness of sports.<sup>1</sup>

The sponsors of this ill-informed legislation have proffered the notion that sex is binary and immutable. This is false, while it may seem like a natural way to categorize people, this female-male binary is inaccurate, as biologists have pointed out for years.<sup>2</sup>

Further research shows that athletic ability is influenced by a complex interplay of factors beyond just biological sex. Genetics, training, nutrition, psychological factors, and access to resources all play significant roles. Trans women may have genetic predispositions that contribute to their athletic abilities, just as cisgender women do. Additionally, dedicated training and optimal nutrition play a significant role<sup>3</sup> in athletic performance, regardless of biological sex. Many trans women athletes undergo years of testosterone suppression before even entering competitive sports, further mitigating any advantages.

Accordingly, Annapolis Pride respectfully requests an **unfavorable** committee report on House Bill 0156.

---

<sup>1</sup> Four Myths About Trans Athletes, Debunked | ACLU. (2020, April 30). American Civil Liberties Union, from <https://www.aclu.org/news/lgbtq-rights/four-myths-about-trans-athletes-debunked>

<sup>2</sup> Berkowitz, A. (2020, June 19). Our Biology Is Not Binary. Psychology Today, from <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/governing-behavior/202006/our-biology-is-not-binary>

<sup>3</sup> Transgender Women Athletes and Elite Sport: A Scientific Review. (2022, November 3). Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport

<https://www.cces.ca/sites/default/files/content/docs/pdf/transgenderwomenathletesandelitesport-ascientificreview-e-final.pdf>