



January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Maryland House of Representatives  
Ways and Means Committee  
130 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the pediatric nurse practitioners (PNPs) and fellow pediatric-focused advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) Chesapeake Chapter, we are writing to express our **opposition of HB 156: Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams - Designation Based on Sex (Fairness in Girls' Sports Act)**.

As experts in pediatrics, we understand the nuance of gender non-conformity better than the general public. We know that biological sex does not always correspond with external genitalia or hormone levels from birth, which has nothing to do with gender affirming care. We know that transgender children do not a documented biological advance over the opposite sex, especially those who do not go through puberty. This bill is rooted in misguidance and mistrust, and risks harm to children. By passing this bill, you would create a situation where the gender of any child could be openly questioned and attacked. There are no studies or data to show that harm results from the <1% of transgender children who participate in school sports on to cisgender children, however this is a vast amount showing data of harmful bills like this directly correlating to increased mental distress and suicide rates of LGBTQIA+ youth. There is not a wave of children being denied medals or scholarships due to transgender children, and so the impetus of this bill is questionable. Frankly, this bill seems intended to target and harm children for existing how they and their parents choose, denying parental rights and purposely attacking children. What this bill also fails to address is who would be determining the biological sex, and how. Will there be adults checking childrens' genitalia? We can foresee this type of bill creating an opening for sexual predators to take advantage of children. If a child does not make the varsity team and a very large or muscular girl for their age does, do other parents have the right to openly question if that child's biological sex is being falsified? This is already occurring in adult sports, and we will not stand for this type of bullying by adults to occur our pediatric patients.

For these reasons the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends our opposition of HB 156: Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams - Designation Based on Sex (Fairness in Girls' Sports Act) and requests an **unfavorable report**. The pediatric advanced practice nurses of your state are grateful to you for your attention to these crucial issues. The Chesapeake Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners membership includes over 200 primary and acute care pediatric nurse practitioners who are committed to improving the health and advocating for Maryland's pediatric patients. If we can be of any further assistance, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Chesapeake Chapter legislative committee or president, Yvette Laboy at [mdchesnapnapleg@outlook.com](mailto:mdchesnapnapleg@outlook.com).

Sincerely,

*Yvette Laboy*

Dr. Yvette Laboy DNP, CPNP-AC, CCRN, CPN  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
(NAPNAP)  
Chesapeake Chapter President

*Lindsay Ward*

Ms. Lindsay Ward MSN, CPNP-PC, IBCLC  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
(NAPNAP)  
Chesapeake Chapter Immediate Past-President

*Evgenia Ogorodova*

Dr. Evgenia Ogorodova DNP, CPNP-PC  
Chesapeake Chapter Legislative Co-Chair

*Jessica D. Murphy*

Dr. Jessica D. Murphy DNP, CPNP-AC, CPHON, CNE  
Chesapeake Chapter Legislative Co-Chair