1/27/25

TO:

All members of the House Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Christine Hunt Jay Crouthers 1014 Dockser Drive Crownsville. MD 21032

RE: HB 156

Dear Delegates.

We support HB 156 and ask that you do the same.

The petition below says it all for us. The abuse, devastating conditions and disappointments which girls are now being subjected to is completely against the values of our society. If biological males that identify with being female want to play sports, then perhaps they should have their own locker rooms and leagues and NOT be combined with biological women's sports activities.

## Petition:

The fight to protect the integrity of girls' sports has never been more critical. Sports should be about fairness, opportunity, and respect for the hard work that athletes dedicate to their craft. This is why I have once again introduced <u>HB 156</u>, Fairness in Girls' Sports, which ensures only biological females compete in high school varsity and junior varsity girls' sports.

**But this fight goes beyond records.** It's about protecting the physical safety of female athletes. In one appalling case, a female volleyball player suffered a traumatic brain injury after a ball was spiked at her by a trans-identified male competitor. In another, a high school field hockey player had her teeth knocked out. These aren't isolated incidents—they're warnings about the real-world consequences of ignoring biology.

Even the rules and equipment in sports reflect these biological differences. Girls' volleyball nets are lower. Girls' basketballs are smaller. And lacrosse rules and uniforms are designed specifically for the female body. These adjustments exist because male and female physiology isn't interchangeable. **Yet activists pushing to blur these distinctions seem to believe gender ideology trumps fairness and safety.** 

Sports are about physical performance—not identity. It takes just one trans-identified male to disrupt the entire landscape of girls' sports. We've seen this globally, where countless podium spots, scholarships, and championship titles have been lost by female athletes to trans-identified males. As a society, we can respect and celebrate diversity while maintaining fair competition by recognizing the realities of biology.

Recently, the Biden administration backed off a proposed rule that would have extended Title IX protections to transgender athletes. This decision shows that public sentiment and legal pushback are starting to shift the conversation back toward common sense. At least 25 states have passed laws to protect girls' sports, and Congress will revisit HR 734, the Protecting Women and Girls in Sports Act, in 2025.

Sincerely,

Christine Hunt Jay Crouthers