



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Testimony to OPPOSE

HB 156 - Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams - Designation Based on Sex (Fairness in Girls' Sports Act)

TO: Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair and Members of the Ways and Means Committee.
FROM: Kari Alperovitz-Bichell, MD, MPH
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
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I am Kari Alperovitz-Bichell, MD, representing myself both as a physician and a person of faith representing the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland.

We urge you to OPPOSE **HB 156-Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams - Designation Based on Sex (Fairness in Girls' Sports Act)**. This bill unnecessarily stigmatizes trans youth. This is a solution in search of a problem which was debunked in this article by Scientific American.¹ Trans youth are rare and likely to be taking puberty-delaying medication, which would take away any perceived “unfair” advantages due to the effects of testosterone,

However, this bill would also set up a system of asking the school to decide which youth are “biological girls.” As a medical doctor, I have questions about what mechanisms would be used and what protections would be put in place to protect children from false accusations and invasive exams done by people with dubious credentials.

As a primary care physician, I have provided gender affirming treatment. I have seen first hand how gender affirming care can be lifesaving. But, more fundamentally for me and my fellow Unitarian Universalists, I am called by the first principle of my faith to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every human being.

This bill takes away the ability of trans youth to participate in an important aspect of high school. Participation in school sports can be an important coping mechanism for the stressors of High School. Unfortunately, participation in sports teams outside of schools are not always available to the poorest of our kids.

Therefore, we at UULM-MD urge you to oppose HB 156.

Kari Alperovitz-Bichell, MD, MPH

¹ <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/trans-girls-belong-on-girls-sports-teams/>