

Support HB 156

Allowing biological boys to compete against biological girls is discriminatory. Competitive sports must be based on sex, not gender identity. These common sense rules have already become laws in many states. Let's not make Maryland the last state to come to its senses.

The United States has made great strides in promoting women's sports since Title IX revolutionized our country over 50 years ago. Ignoring this issue sets us back for women's rights for almost half a century. Sports are competitive, and like any competition they should be played on a fair and level playing field. There are divisions, age brackets, and weight classes for a reason.

My children participated in competitive sports during their school years. They played in local and national tournaments. Every league has very strict rules about participation. **No higher age participant can join a lower team age team**, and violation of that rule disqualifies the team. The rule is based mainly on physical abilities and characteristics of players, since levels of experience differ widely. If one year of age difference is so important for fair competition, how much difference does male superior physical strength make?!

Female athletes have fought too long and too hard for equal athletic opportunity to lose their protections. Males who suppress testosterone and use feminizing hormones do not mitigate male biological advantage. The average male is bigger, faster, and stronger than the average female.

Sincerely,
Mark Meyerovich
Gaithersburg, MD