



## **HB156 – Fairness in Girls’ Sports**

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in strong support of HB156, the Fairness in Girls’ Sports Act. This legislation is vital to ensuring that female athletes in Maryland high schools can compete on a level playing field, preserving the integrity and opportunities that girls’ sports provide.

There is widespread and bipartisan support for keeping girls’ sports exclusively for biological females. A recent poll conducted by Gonzales Research found that more than three-quarters of Maryland voters oppose allowing biological males to compete in high school girls’ sports, with strong agreement across political and demographic groups. This broad consensus reflects a shared understanding that fairness in athletics is foundational to promoting equality and opportunity.

Since the enactment of Title IX, girls’ sports have played a transformative role in the lives of young women by fostering confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills while paving the way for academic and athletic scholarships. Allowing biological males to compete in girls’ sports undermines these hard-fought gains by creating an uneven playing field that disadvantages female athletes and threatens the integrity of competition.

HB156 is not about exclusion—it is about ensuring that girls continue to have access to fair and safe opportunities to compete and succeed. By enacting this legislation, Maryland can reaffirm its commitment to protecting these opportunities for the next generation of female athletes.

Thank you for considering this important issue, and I respectfully urge the committee to advance HB156.

Sincerely,

Ali Rak

Maryland State Director

State Freedom Caucus Network