

House Bill 156 - Ways and Means Committee - UNFAVORABLE

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee;

One Pasadena: Building a Safe and Inclusive Community is an anti-bigotry group that works to change the culture of intolerance in Pasadena, MD. We, the One Pasadena Steering Committee, urge you to give House Bill 156 an unfavorable report.

In Pasadena, a group of community members organized to attack, harass, threaten, stalk, and lie about members of a high school GSA and a transgender teacher. Many of their children, students in our local schools, have bullied, harassed, and assaulted LGBTQ+ students. We have a serious problem of anti-LGBTQ+ bigotry in Pasadena. Passing any legislation that validates that hatred would only make things more dangerous for LGBTQ+ people here.

There are sports where being left-handed, or having longer limbs, or having a larger or smaller frame have an effect on the player's performance. There are people who were born with vaginas who have a higher testosterone level than the average of people born with vaginas. What about students who have an athletic advantage because they go through puberty earlier or later than the average? All of these could easily have more of an effect on one's ability to succeed in sports than what chromosomes they were born with. This bill is designed to harm the people that the sponsors don't think should exist at all, much less be able to participate in society. If it was about "fairness" in sports, the sponsors would look at all of the other body differences, and seek to discriminate based on those.

Please reject the hatred by voting against HB 156.

Sincerely,
The One Pasadena Steering Committee
Pasadena, MD