

## Written testimony in opposition to HB649, Maryland's proposal

I am a retired attorney and a parent of grown children. My family has be directly damaged by the effects of equating "gender identity" with sex, and I consider this proposed legislation as terribly dangerous.

When educational opportunities and spaces are designed for sex segregation, the relevant question for deciding if an individual is entitled to inclusion in the use of these opportunities or spaces is merely biological sex. An individual's self-identification with the opposite sex must not displace the reality of the sexed body.

This legislation will strip private schools, even parochial schools of the right to deliver education that fits the needs of their families and students it will also complicate reporting to the State Office of Civil Rights in certain cases, and cause the elimination of many educational options in the state. Most importantly to me, the legislation will deprive many girls of the developmentally beneficial and safety-aligned benefits of sex-segregation in certain contexts.

Please oppose HB649.