

HB0063
Ways and Means Committee
February 4, 2026
Position: Oppose

Esteemed Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldman, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee, my name is Amy Isler and I am a constituent of Maryland District 44A. I am a parent of two teenage girls and a former high school teacher in Baltimore County Public Schools. **I oppose HB0063, Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Locker Rooms – Designation Based on Sex.** I do not believe its claim to provide “fairness.”

Organized sports provide a host of benefits for children: team building; opportunities for growth and personal development; and lessons about resilience and perseverance. This bill seeks to deny those benefits for children who do not conform to their limited definitions. By confining gender to “biological sex,” this bill erases the very existence of intersex and nonbinary children and denies that trans girls are girls and trans boys and boys.

It is very telling to me that this bill purports to “protect girls.” The suggestion that girls need protecting in this regard while boys don't speaks volumes. The writers are willing to subject cisgender girls who do not conform to their limited definitions to abuse from their peers who don't believe that they are cis. This puts all girls—trans and cis—in danger, by heightening scrutiny around their gender presentation. This bill gives any student standing to sue any school they feel has violated this principle, and also to sue anyone who that student felt retaliated against them for doing so. Such a bill would open the door for cis girls being subjected to public hounding based on someone's opinion of what they look like. That hardly sounds like “protection” to me.

This bill, like many being presented around the country, is obviously part of the larger Republican strategy to remove trans people from society, by making it harder and harder for them to participate in American life. It begins with denying trans children the right to play with their friends, and expands into removing rights to health care, rights to work, rights to hold identification that affirms who they are for trans adults. As a sanctuary state, Maryland has a responsibility to protect its citizens from blatantly discriminatory bills like this.

For these reasons, I oppose this bill, and **I respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on HB0063.**