

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 63 (2026 Regular Session), the Fairness in Girls' Sports Act, which would ensure that interscholastic and intramural junior varsity and varsity athletic teams and locker room facilities in Maryland public schools are designated based on biological sex.

House Bill 63 recognizes the importance of fair and equitable competition in school sports. Athletic opportunities play a vital role in the physical, emotional, and social development of young people. Girls and young women have fought for decades to secure fair access to sports opportunities where they can participate on an even playing field. This bill protects that principle by ensuring that classifications for teams and related facilities reflect biological differences that can affect competition and safety.

By requiring designation based on sex, HB 63:

- Preserves competitive fairness so that girls' teams remain opportunities for girls to compete against peers with similar physiological characteristics.
- Supports student-athlete safety, particularly in contact or competitive sports where physical differences might create risks.
- Maintains clarity and consistency in how athletic programs are structured across Maryland's public schools.

I believe this legislation strikes a balanced approach between inclusion and fairness by recognizing the value of athletic participation while ensuring competitive integrity. I respectfully urge support for HB 63 when it is considered by the Ways and Means Committee and the full House.

Best Regards,
Paula Thomas