

HB63

Education – Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Locker Rooms – Designation Based on Sex (Fairness in Girls' Sports Act)

February 5, 2026

Oppose

Dear Delegate Wilkins and all the members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Melanie Scala. I have lived in district 23 for 9 years and in Maryland for fifteen. From 2010 until the end of 2019, I was an active member of several different women's flat track roller derby leagues in DC and Maryland, officiating games and scrimmages. Officials have to pay especially close attention to game play in order to keep the sport safe for skaters, other officials, and fans alike. Roller derby is a contact sport on skates and can be very dangerous, even when no fouls are committed and with a dozen officials watching.

As a roller derby official and as a fan, I have seen hundreds, possibly thousands of games, both in single sex leagues and co-ed ones. Both governing bodies of the sport I participated in, the Women's Flat Track Roller Derby Association (WFTDA) and the Men's Roller Derby Association (MRDA), allow cisgender and transgender athletes to play, so I have ample experience with the safety of cisgender athletes when they play with transgender ones.

I can categorically state that not only does being transgender not endanger other skaters, it does not confer any advantage or disadvantage. Athletic ability is individual; it does not correlate with sexual chromosomes, secondary sexual characteristics, or genitals. I have seen strong cisgender men and women knocked on their rears by cis- and transgender women. I have seen cis- and transgender women and men being the ones getting knocked down just as hard. There are the same bruises on skaters whether they are cisgender or transgender, the same twisted ankles and broken bones whether caused by a cisgender skater, a transgender skater, or no one but the injured party. There is absolutely no reason to keep transgender women and girls out of sports to protect cisgender women and girls. All it does is deprive transgender people of an activity they enjoy, making life harder for them.

I respectfully urge this committee to vote against HB63 in support of *all* of Maryland's women and girls.

Melanie Scala