

Committee: Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

Bill number: SB 381 - Education – Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Sports – Designation Based on Sex (Save Women’s Sports Act)

Hearing Date: February 7, 2024

Position: Oppose

The Women’s Law Center of Maryland strongly opposes *SB 381 - Education – Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Sports – Designation Based on Sex (Save Women’s Sports Act)*. The bill requires public and private high schools to maintain single-sex sports teams, defines sex as biological, and creates a private right of action for students “deprived of an athletic opportunity” because of a violation of the law.

This bill is not about fairness in sports. It is about perpetuating a history of discrimination against transgender and nonbinary students. If enacted, the bill would violate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. The U.S. Department of Education recently affirmed that Title IX’s prohibits discrimination against transgender students in any educational program or activity offered by a school that receives federal financial assistance.ⁱ

Nearly 1 in 5 transgender or nonbinary students has contemplated suicide with the past year, according to a recent survey the Trevor Project.ⁱⁱ This figure shows that we must oppose measures such as HB 47 and continue to work towards more supportive environments in our schools for transgender and nonbinary youth.

As providers of gender-affirming care, we stand with our clients and ask for an unfavorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Michael Paddy at mpaddy@policypartners.net.

ⁱ <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/202106-titleix-noi.pdf>

ⁱⁱ https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2022/assets/static/trevor01_2022survey_final.pdf