



Senate Bill 381
Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams -
Designation Based on Sex

Oppose

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee,

Advance Maryland is strongly opposed to SB 381, which would ban young transgender student athletes from participating in school sports. At Advance Maryland, we work towards a Maryland with thriving, healthy and inclusive communities where all Marylanders have access to opportunity, including safe and affordable housing; economic prosperity; quality healthcare; reliable transportation; a restorative justice system; and a livable future.

There are no evidence-based, scientific reasons to ban transgender girls from participating in girls' sports. This bill would only cause an already vulnerable student population more harm by denying them the documented benefits of participation in sports and further singling them out in a hostile and unnecessary way.

Legislation like SB 381 only perpetuates myths based on transphobia and sexism, and fails to recognize that there are many factors that contribute to success in sports, and those factors vary depending on the sport. There is also no evidence that transgender girls have any biological advantage over their cisgender peers in sports. Any claim that they do is not based on science. According to a [Literature Review by Sports Medicine in 2017](#):

Currently, there is no direct or consistent research suggesting transgender female individuals (or male individuals) have an athletic advantage at any stage of their transition (e.g. cross-sex hormones, gender-confirming surgery).

Keep transphobia out of youth sports, and please give SB 381 an unfavorable report.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Alice Wilkerson, Executive Director