



LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

January 29, 2024

Say NO to Men in Girl's/Women's Sports

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Fairness in Girls' Sports Act
HB47/SB381

7 Reasons Fairness in Girls Sports:

1. **Fair Competition:** Separating sports by biological sex ensures fair competition based on physical characteristics and abilities.
2. **Safety Concerns:** Men's physical differences can increase the risk of injury to female athletes.
3. **Protecting Opportunities:** Girls' sports provide chances for female athletes to excel and earn scholarships.
4. **Preserving Integrity:** Separate categories recognize and celebrate the achievements of female athletes.
5. **Title IX Compliance:** Separate teams help ensure compliance with federal laws against sex discrimination.
6. **Mental Health Well-Being:** Girls' sports foster a supportive environment for female athletes.
7. **Historical Context:** Women have fought for recognition and opportunities in sports for many years. Ignoring this progress is a step backwards for Maryland girls.

This legislation establishes clear guidelines for Maryland school athletic teams and sports, ensuring that they are designated based on biological sex. Biological sex is determined objectively by genetics and anatomy at birth. The inherent differences between men and women should be recognized and celebrated, without using them to unfairly restrict opportunities for individuals of either sex.

One of these differences is that men have higher levels of testosterone, which contributes to their ability to generate greater speed, power, and endurance during physical activities, particularly in sports. These differences in sports performance are influenced by factors such as chromosomes, hormones, and physical characteristics. Boys generally have stronger bones, muscles, and cardiovascular systems compared to girls, providing them with certain advantages in specific sports.

Although it is generally discouraged to classify individuals based on sex, the Supreme Court acknowledges that having sex-specific teams in sports can play a role in ensuring that talents and abilities are fully developed.

Accepting these biological realities, this proposed law establishes clear rules for school athletic teams, ensuring that

students participate according to biological sex. It promotes fairness and inclusivity by designating teams as boys or girls, or mixed but always based on the athlete's biological sex. Selina's Law aims to preserve the integrity of women's sports.

Jonathan M. Alexandre, Esq. is Legislative Counsel for Maryland Family Institute.

Female Athletes are Speaking Out:

"I was forced to compete against two biological males...they would beat me out by 20 M in the 100-YD dash. I lost out on countless opportunities and missed out on qualifying for the '19 NE regional meet and kicked out of qualifying, and I was forced at the sidelines in my own event and received only honors...no other girl has to experience the pain and heartbreak during my four years in high school and I will fight for this issue as long as it takes."

Selina Soule – Female Track Athlete

"I went to the finals and found out an hour before the finals there was a male in my division yet again. And similar to the contest in Illinois, I placed second and lost out on thousands of dollars and this athlete took 5 grand not only placing first. And I knew this was wrong, but it was intimidating to speak out about it."

Taylor Silverman – Professional Female Skateboarder

"I worked my entire life to become an NCAA athlete...I played against a man at one of these tournaments...It's a big difference...This boy slams the ball in my face time and time again. That was supposed to have been settled 50 years ago. That is why I am not going to be silent. I will continue to speak up until all female athletes everywhere have protection."

Macy Petty – NCAA Female Volleyball Player