MD HB. 0359

Written Testimony from Women's Liberation Front Submitted February 13, 2023

MD HB. 0359 – Save Women's Sports Act **SUPPORT**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 0359. My name is Kacie Moon. I am a Maryland resident and the Board President of Women's Liberation Front (WoLF). WoLF is our nation's largest radical feminist, non-partisan, non-profit agency fighting against gender ideology. WoLF represents women of every political affiliation and belief system. We urge you to support HB. 0359.

HB. 0359 is an excellent bill and provides a sufficient amount of detail to ensure that the integrity and fairness of women and girls' sports will not be undermined by men and boys.

Female-only sports are incredibly important because they ensure that women and girls will continue to have opportunities related not just to winning sporting events, but opportunities to advance their educational opportunities and careers.

In highschool, I ran varsity track and went to a state championship. Those formative experiences instilled an enduring sense of self-esteem, body-confidence, and determination that has propelled me through my life and career. If I had faced off against boys in those races, I know my successes and camaraderie with my female teammates would have been deeply diminished.

Although studies have found that women are more resistant than men to fatigue and more suited to endurance, on average, female human beings are physically smaller and slower than male human beings. This statement is not meant to diminish the amazing capabilities of the female sex, or the extremely high standards of sportsmanship often found only in female athletics. This statement is merely a fact based on biological reality.

Overall, physiological sex differences are so large that the US Women's National Team was beaten in a soccer scrimmage by the FC Dallas under-15 boys' team in 2017.

These differences are not even close to being reversed with the lowering of

testosterone levels or other forms of medical transition, though this is not usually required anyway.

Sex-separated sports exist because of biological and physiological sex differences that are highly relevant to athletics. We do not separate sports by race or ethnicity, by sexual orientation, by religion, and we should not separate by an athlete's personal feelings about their sex. A female athlete's place on a girl's soccer team is not contingent on expressing femininity, just as a male athlete's place on a boy's soccer team is not contingent on expressing masculinity.

It is both incredibly unfair and a mockery of our intelligence to force women and girls to compete against males who make the sexist claim of having "the soul of a girl."

When female athletes are forced to compete in de facto coed teams, they are deprived of titles, records, medals, scholarships, and opportunities to win, or participate, fairly and safely. In just one example, in 2019, two male track runners blew away female competitors in Connecticut's state track championship and smashed 15 state records previously held by female competitors.

The most recent and glaring example, that of collegiate swimmer Lia Thomas, is making headlines at this very moment, and the Committee should view this situation as a guaranteed consequence if Pennsylvania does not pass this bill into law. Thomas has provided the wider public with an eye-opening view of the sheer number of female athletes whose success can be displaced by just a single, otherwise mediocre male athlete when he is allowed to compete at an elite level on a female-only team.

Even more concerningly, women are at an increased risk of injury when playing contact sports with men. Fallon Fox, a male MMA fighter, *fractured a woman's skull* during a competition in which he did not disclose he was a man until shortly before the fight. The woman said it was the most overpowered she had ever felt.

Other states have already passed similar laws — with bipartisan support in their legislatures — protecting women's and girls' sports. National polling suggests that such policies are supported by *a vast majority of voters* across the political spectrum, including Democratic voters. The public knows that having only coed sports wouldn't be fair.

I urge Maryland's leaders to support HB. 0359 because this bill will ensure a fair playing field for women and girls throughout the state.

By protecting the integrity of women's sports, we ensure that girls can access essential scholarships and opportunities, which creates strong leaders and drives the next generation of capable women in our great state.

Thank you for reviewing our testimony. WoLF is available to serve as a resource for you if you have questions or would like more information about the importance of single-sex sports, or any topic related to gender ideology and sex-based inequalities.

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