



OPPOSE HB1387(Greenhalgh) and HB1399 (March)

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A personal story about a student athlete in Henrico County:

My child is a senior in highschool and has recently become interested in sports. She played a little bit of volleyball on a rec team when she was in middle school, but didn't have much experience. To be honest, as her parents, we never pursued sports because we were not sure if rec. leagues would be open and welcoming to transgender children.

This year, as coming to the end of her public school career, she wanted to be a part of something bigger, expand her friend group, and move her body...so she courageously tried out for the volleyball team.

She was welcomed onto her high school volleyball team. I must say they didn't have tryouts and cuts and allowed anyone interested to participate. She was excited to just be a part of it all. She showed up to every practice, even the extra ones and worked hard. Though she was not a strong player, she improved a lot and actually got to play in a lot of games with teammates who were patient and willing to help her learn the complexities of the sport. She was able to challenge herself in a new way. She is a trans girl, a girl who rightfully played on the girls' volleyball team.

Now, it's the beginning of the spring season, and my brave child is going out for the tennis team. She has never played before, so we will see what happens. I admire her courage to try new things!

If she decides to go on to higher education, club sports is something she definitely wants to pursue. She has found being on a team to be the social and physical outlet she needed and never had before. Being a part of a team has been the key to improving her overall wellbeing.

Every child deserves to have a sense of belonging, a chance to develop skills to play sports which are FUN and often become a lifelong interest, a way to make friends, stay active on the quest of being healthy.

Vote NO on HB 1387 and HB1399 and let all youth learn and play sports with their peers.