

Testimony Against SB 0050 (Fairness in Girls' Sports Act)

Maryland General Assembly, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB 0050. This bill mandates sex-based designations for high school athletic teams, bars male-sex students from girls'/women's teams, and shields schools from accountability—addressing a nonexistent problem while creating real harm.

Scientific evidence shows transgender women lack inherent athletic advantages over cisgender women. A 2024 British Journal of Sports Medicine study, partly funded by the International Olympic Committee, found trans women have bone density and hemoglobin profiles similar to cisgender women, with decreased lower-body strength and lung function. Trans athletes are vanishingly rare: NCAA President Charlie Baker testified in December 2024 that fewer than 10 transgender athletes compete nationwide out of 510,000 (0.002%), and there are zero known cases of a transgender girl receiving an athletic scholarship. SB 0050 targets a phantom threat.

Yet this bill will manufacture division and danger. It fosters fear for girls defying gender stereotypes, especially Black and Brown girls. At the 2024 Olympics, cisgender Algerian boxer Imane Khelif faced baseless transgender accusations due to her “mannish” appearance—despite being born female. In Utah, a 16-year-old cisgender girl endured threats after a state official questioned her gender online, citing her short hair, baggy clothes, and gym-built muscles. SB 0050 invites such harassment, policed by subjective judgments.

Worse, it risks invasive, non-consensual genital inspections for cisgender girls to “prove” eligibility, amplifying documented abuse by coaches and doctors. It also isolates transgender girls, severing them from friends and affirming they “don't belong”—cruel and unnecessary.

SB 0050 ignores true barriers in girls' sports: unequal funding (gaps widening since 2009), Black and Brown girls' disproportionate lack of access, devaluation of women's sports, and rampant coach/doctor abuse. Banning trans girls solves none of these.

The evidence is unequivocal: Vote NO on SB 0050. Protect all girls—cisgender, transgender, and nonconforming—by rejecting divisive, evidence-free mandates. Thank you.

Caitlin Heavey, Baltimore, MD

Caitlin.heavey@gmail.com