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Re: SB0050: Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Sports - Designation (Fairness in Girls' Sports Act)

Honorable members of the Maryland General Assembly Energy, Education, and Environment Committee,

My name is Rhys Frazier and I am a resident of Sabillasville, Maryland. I am writing in opposition of SB0050: Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Sports - Designation (Fairness in Girls' Sports Act). But let's call a spade a spade and acknowledge the proposed bill for what it is: a ban against transgender and gender non-conforming girls competing in school sports, whose summary uses intentionally vague language about "certain" teams, "certain" schools, and "certain" students.

Transgender girls deserve to participate on their schools' sports teams. Sports allow students to get physical exercise in a fun and engaging way, and help young people develop valuable interpersonal skills with their teammates. Forcing transgender girls, who may have undergone feminizing puberty through hormone replacement therapy, into boys sports subjects them to the same health and safety risks as forcing cisgender girls into boys sports and locker rooms. This effectively prevents transgender girls from participating in *any* sports, and prevents them from reaping the physical, social, and mental health benefits of being on a sports team.

SB0050 unfairly targets a minuscule percentage of students. A 2020 UCLA report entitled "LGBT Youth Population in the United States" estimates that there are only 2,300 students ages 13-18 that identify as transgender. Only a fraction of that number identify as girls (as opposed to transgender students that identify as boys, or identify as neither). And of that fraction, even fewer participate in school sports. A fraction of a fraction of just 2,300 students, who just want to have a normal high school experience and play sports with their friends.

There is no evidence that transfeminine people have a blanket advantage over cisgender girls and women. Here I allow the medical experts on the matter to carry the point. See the attached PDF, "Trans women in sports."

The proposed bill harms all girls and their schools. It subjects every girl in sports to a requirement to perform perfect, stereotypical femininity in order to avoid any possible claim that they violate the the so-called "Fairness in Girl's Sports Act." It creates an unnecessary barrier for girls who are tall, who have broad shoulders, who have flat chests, who have bushy eyebrows, who have

short hair, or who don't want to wear makeup. It makes girls more vulnerable to bullying and malicious rumors spread by their peers.

Consider Paragraph E and the following scenarios it allows.

"A STUDENT WHO IS DEPRIVED OF AN ATHLETIC OPPORTUNITY OR SUFFERS ANY DIRECT OR INDIRECT HARM AS A RESULT OF A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION MAY BRING A CIVIL ACTION AGAINST THE SCHOOL THE STUDENT ATTENDS.

"A STUDENT WHO IS SUBJECT TO RETALIATION OR OTHER ADVERSE ACTION BY A SCHOOL OR AN ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION OR ORGANIZATION AS A RESULT OF REPORTING A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION TO AN EMPLOYEE OR REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SCHOOL, ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION OR ORGANIZATION, OR ANY STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY WITH OVERSIGHT OF SCHOOLS IN THE STATE MAY BRING A CIVIL ACTION AGAINST THE SCHOOL OR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION OR ORGANIZATION."

Scenario: Jane tries out for a sports team at her high school and doesn't make the cut. Mary, a tall girl with strong shoulders, tries out for the same team and performs well enough to be given a position. Jane claims that Mary is "a boy" because Mary has some stereotypically masculine traits, and Jane and her parents sue the school district and subject Mary to bullying and harassment in school, in the community, and online. The school district loses money that could have better been used for student resources on defense attorneys.

Scenario: Jenny and Lisa are on the same team. They were friends, but recently had a fight. Jenny starts spreading rumors that Lisa has a penis that has been seen at a sleepover, which some other girls on the team repeat. Someone informs the coach that Jenny and a group of other girls have been bullying Lisa, and after investigating the claims of bullying and finding them true, Jenny and the other bullies are suspended from the next few games. Jenny's father claims that it's "retaliation or other adverse action" by the school and team. He sues the school district, subjecting Lisa to even more bullying and harassment at school, in the community, and online. The school district loses money that could have better been used for student resources on defense attorneys.

The bill allows an individual to wantonly target any student on a girls' sports team, subject her to public scrutiny and ridicule, and encourages lawsuits that cause an unconscionable waste of school resources.

In conclusion, SB0050 unfairly targets a small percentage of students and seeks to prevent them from participating in normal student life, ostracizing them from their peers without any scientific justification. If girls that don't meet either the bill's proposed definition of girlhood, or the stereotypical appearance and mannerisms of a girl, they could be punished with public humiliation at

school, in their community, and on the world-wide web. Schools, meanwhile, must enforce arbitrary stereotypes of femininity as a requirement to participate in sports, or must be prepared to waste valuable taxpayer resources on defense against frivolous lawsuits, instead of using those funds to enrich the education of Maryland students.

For all of the above reasons, I strongly urge the committee to vote against SB0050: Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Sports - Designation ("Fairness in Girls' Sports Act").

Sincerely,

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