

The Honorable Chair  
Senator Brian J. Feldman  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: OPPOSITION of Senate Bill 0050  
Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Sports -  
Designation (Fairness in Girls' Sports Act)**

To the Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and esteemed members of the Education, Energy,  
and the Environment Committee,

My name is Gretchen M. Tome and I am a resident of Baltimore City, District 45. I am writing to  
name my opposition to SB0050 the "Fairness In Girls' Sports Act". This legislation would  
disproportionately affect Black & girls of color who are trans and cisgendered, due to historical  
racism and transphobia.

Dehumanization and objectification of Black women and girls stretches back to chattel slavery,  
when enslaved Black women and girls were valued for auction based on their physical  
appearances and skills that were seen as more masculine or more feminine. Black and brown  
women have faced many more false accusations of being transgender, subjecting these  
athletes to higher rates of harassment and intrusive sex testing than their white peers. SB0050  
would open the door for more cisgendered Black and girls of color to face more of this  
harassment.

As someone who enjoys running, who is a School Social Worker in the public school system,  
and who has volunteered with Girls on the Run, I know the power of movement, team sports,  
and belonging. [Suicide risk among transgender youth is 4x the national average](#), however,  
when transgender youth are supported by their communities, that risk is greatly decreased.  
Legislation such as SB0050 puts lives at risk by creating more harassment and exclusion when  
what our youth need are more spaces where they are welcomed, celebrated, and loved.

For these reasons and many more, **I ask the Education, Energy, and the Environment  
Committee to give SB0050 an unfavorable report.**

Sincerely,

Gretchen M. Tome  
District 45