

DATE : 2/16/2026

NAME: Melissa Idleman

POSITION: SUPPORT

To the members of the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee:

As a parent, I strongly support Senate Bill 50, the Fairness in Girls' Sports Act, and ask for a favorable report on this important legislation to protect female high school athletes.

SB 50 would simply ensure a level playing field for girls' sports by only allowing biological girls (born female) to play on girls high school interscholastic and intramural junior varsity and varsity teams. This bipartisan legislation would protect girls' physical safety, protect girls' records, and ensure Title IX opportunities for collegiate and other competitive athletic opportunities are protected for female high school athletes.

Recent polls have found that nearly 80% of Americans, including 67% of Democrats, believe male athletes who identify as women should NOT be allowed to compete in women's sports, and those numbers are growing in support for ensuring that girls sports are for biological girls.

This legislation has never been about exclusion. This is about allowing for fair and meaningful competition on the field of play for female high school athletes.

Biological differences matter in competitive sports, and boys and girls are biologically distinct. Scientific research confirms that boys have greater muscles mass, bone density, speed, strength, and more. This is about biology and recognizing the clear and obvious biological advantages that boys have over girls.

Senate Bill 50 is about fairness, equal opportunity, and safety. Now is the time for Maryland to pass legislation protecting female athletes the same way 27 other states have done so.

I urge you to support SB 50. Thank you for your kind attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Melissa Idleman