

SB0050_RichardKaplowitz_UNF
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TESTIMONY ON SB#/0050- POSITION: UNFAVORABLE

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

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony opposing SB#/0050, **Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Sports - Designation (Fairness in Girls' Sports Act)**

Gender Justice, studying this issue in Minnesota, has found that *The Real Threat to Women's Sports? It's Not Trans Athletes*¹

A [Feb. 23 Star Tribune column](#) argued that transgender girls have an unfair advantage in women's sports, claiming their inclusion threatens fairness. But let's be clear: This argument isn't based on facts — it's the same tired anti-trans fear mongering, dressed up as Minnesota Nice. It leans on cherry-picked anecdotes, ignores scientific research and conveniently sidesteps the fact that banning trans women from sports is illegal under Minnesota law.

There's nothing wrong with asking questions about transgender athletes, but a column void of facts is problematic. Trans women are not men, and medically transitioning is a complex, well-studied process. Being assigned male at birth does not automatically make someone a stronger or faster athlete. In fact, after hormone therapy, trans women's performance [aligns with](#) cisgender women's performance. When it comes to both gender and athletic performance, the reality is far more complex than XX and XY, and clinging to outdated and oversimplified ideas about sex differences isn't common sense — it's just inaccurate.

The fixation on trans athletes is a smokescreen. This movement isn't really about protecting women or girls, competition or fairness — it's about controlling who gets to exist openly and freely in our society.

So the premise of this bill, requiring certain interscholastic and intramural junior varsity and varsity athletic teams or sports sponsored by certain schools to be expressly designated in a certain manner; prohibiting certain interscholastic and intramural junior varsity and varsity athletic teams or sports from including certain students; prohibiting certain entities from taking certain adverse actions against a school under certain circumstances; etc. is completely in service to the fears and misinformation about trans athletes and should be rejected in Maryland.

I respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on SB#/0050.

¹ <https://www.genderjustice.us/commentary/trans-athletes-are-not-the-real-threat/>