

## **OPPOSE Senate Bill 50: Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Sports - Designation Based on Sex (Fairness in Girls' Sports Act)**

Dear Chairperson Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee:

We represent the Coalition for LGBTQ+ Students of Anne Arundel County; our mission is to provide support for LGBTQIA youth through education, policy and advocacy. **Our Coalition strongly opposes SB 50 because it is harmful to youth. We urge you to give it an unfavorable report.**

Trans youth are facing increased attacks across the country. Maryland must not join the bandwagon. Trans youth face enormous stress due to negative stereotypes and disinformation perpetuated by laws that exclude them from playing sports. Reputable national health organizations such as the [American Psychological Association \(APA\)](#), [the American Medical Association \(AMA\)](#) and the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#) strongly support the full inclusion of transgender girls in sports. They argue that restrictive policies are discriminatory, harm mental health, and deny transgender girls the well-established benefits of athletic participation. Trans girls deserve to have all the benefits of playing sports just like any other child. Banning them from playing on girls' teams means they will not play sports at all.

SB 50 is based on fear, not facts.

First, contrary to its misleading title, SB 50 would create risks for cisgender girl athletes. Some cisgender girls would be required to undergo intrusive, dehumanizing medical exams to prove that they have female genitals. Would you want your daughter to undergo a genital inspection so she can play sports? Of course not. In addition, research shows that these exams are done more frequently on girls who are Black or Brown, which creates additional barriers for girls of color to participate in sports. This type of gender inspection of our youth is inhumane, traumatizing and unacceptable.

Second, transgender girls are not inherently superior at sports when compared to cisgender girls. Sex chromosomes alone do not give an automatic benefit to sports performance. Many other biological, social and psychological factors determine athletic abilities and success. Research such as a 2024 study in the [British Journal of Sports Medicine](#) suggests that trans women do not have inherent physical advantages when playing sports.

Third, we know from experts that gender does not fit neatly into the two categories of male and female. Gender is not always static from birth to death. A significant number of people are transgender, non-binary or intersex and their gender identity does not correspond with the gender they were assigned at birth. These children deserve the same understanding, respect and opportunities as any other child.

Fourth, gender identity is a protected class in Maryland and therefore our public schools are prohibited from discriminating against transgender students. SB 50 would make Maryland

noncompliant with this protection, as well as contradicting MPSSA policy and MSDE Non-Discrimination Guidelines.

Fifth, transgender students' participation in sports is a non-issue. In many states, athletic organizations and governing bodies have successfully balanced fairness, inclusion, and access to play. The majority of cisgender girls who play sports are not opposed to playing with trans girls. They value other characteristics of teammates, such as dedication, teamwork, bonding and mutual support. In addition, the number of transgender girls who participate on girls' sports teams is miniscule. In 2024, The NCAA President testified that there were fewer than 10 transgender athletes (out of a total of 510,000 nationwide) participating in the NCAA, making up only 0.002%. Similarly, there are no known cases of a transgender girl being awarded an athletic scholarship. The claim that trans girls are posing a threat to cisgender girls is false.

Finally, lawmakers who focus on banning trans girls from sports are ignoring the real problems that female athletes face. If the sponsors of SB 50 truly care about female athletes, they should tackle the problems of unequal funding for girls' athletics, the lack of access to sports participation for Black and Brown girls, the pervasive societal perception that women's sports are less important than men's sports, and the well-documented abuse of female athletes by coaches, doctors, and athletic officials.

Do not allow lawmakers to use fear mongering and disinformation to target vulnerable children.  
**VOTE NO ON SENATE BILL 50.**

Sincerely,

The Coalition for LGBTQ+ Students

[www.coalition4lgbtqstudents.org](http://www.coalition4lgbtqstudents.org)

