

SB0050 - Fairness in Girls' Sports Act (UNF)

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Chair and members of the committee,

I urge you to oppose Senate Bill 50, the so-called "Fairness in Girls' Sports Act" for several reasons.

First off, like similar legislation in other states, this bill addresses a problem that doesn't exist. In all of Maryland, there is no evidence of transgender girls dominating girls' sports, or even receiving athletic scholarships. Nationally, NCAA President Charlie Baker testified that out of more than 500,000 college athletes, fewer than ten are transgender women. That's 0.002 percent. The numbers simply do not support the fear driving this bill.

Second, bills like this add to the dangerous rhetoric that transgender people pose some sort of threat to girls. Frankly, the science doesn't support it. There was a major study in the British Journal of Sports Medicine (2024) found that trans women actually have similar or even lower strength and lung function compared to cisgender women. There's no inherent, unfair advantage.

Third, and what I fear the most, this bill will cause real harm. It creates a climate of fear and suspicion where any tomgirl can be targeted or forced to undergo invasive, humiliating gender checks. This includes Black or Brown girls, or frankly any girl who don't fit someone else's preconceived idea about what a girl 'should' be. We've already seen this happen in other states. The idea that we could force any young woman to submit to a gender check in order to play a sport is abhorrent!

If this bill became law, I would not let my daughter play any school sport because I am trying to protect her from pedophiles. The idea that some parent might question my daughter's gender and then she'd have to submit to a gender check is sickening. I predict we will have far more girls being humiliated because they are good athletes and some other parent accusing them of being transgendered than preventing some transgendered kid from play sports.

Maryland should be a place where every child can play, participate, and belong—including transgender girls. I urge you to vote no on Senate Bill 50.

Thank you.

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