



CITY TAKOMA OF PARK MARYLAND

Senate Bill 50 - Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams (Fairness in Girls' Sports Act)

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

February 18, 2026

OPPOSE

The City of Takoma Park is against SB50 that would mandate certain schools to label junior varsity and varsity sports teams according to biological sex. This bill, which claims to promote fairness in girls' sports, instead discriminates against all students and creates an atmosphere of fear in school spaces that should be safe and welcoming for everyone.

The City of Takoma Park has nearly 18,000 residents within 2.4 square miles and is proud to be a welcoming community for all families. Over 25% of our residents are under the age of 18. We encourage all our residents to participate in recreational activities for their health, social, and mental advantages.

If implemented, this bill would negatively affect student athletes by disincentivizing them from taking part in youth sports. It would cause fear among student athletes - especially Black and Brown children - who may not conform to gender or other cultural stereotypes. These children would be targeted by others, ostracized, and put through invasive examinations of their body without their consent or their parents' consent.

To be clear, SB50 intends to target and harm transgender girls. For reference, only 0.002% of all NCAA athletes are transgender. This exceedingly small minority group is being unfairly maligned when instead our schools and communities should be supporting all students regardless of gender identity and setting an example of inclusion and acceptance.

The City of Takoma Park encourages support of initiatives that would help girls in sports. In Maryland, we should aim our efforts towards improving funding and access to girls' sports as well as addressing the abuse and harassment of girls and women by coaches, doctors, and other athletic officials.

This legislation is unnecessary and divisive, fostering bigotry in our schools. By encouraging exclusion, SB50 sends a message that discrimination is acceptable, risking a future where students grow up less tolerant and less respectful of diversity. We oppose the enactment of this bill into law and urge an unfavorable vote.

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