



February 16th, 2026

Maryland Senate
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the pediatric nurse practitioners (PNPs) and fellow pediatric-focused advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) Maryland Chesapeake Chapter, we are writing to express our **opposition of Senate Bill 50 Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Sports - Designation (Fairness in Girls' Sports Act).**

While we support fair competition in sports and recognize the importance of promoting opportunities for all young athletes, we believe that SB50 undermines the principles of inclusion and equity and that encouraging participation in sports should not come at the expense of a child’s mental and emotional safety. As pediatric healthcare providers, we are concerned that this legislation could exacerbate discrimination and stigma against already vulnerable populations. As experts in pediatrics, we understand the nuance of gender non-conformity, and know that biological sex does not always correspond with external genitalia from birth or hormone levels. While we understand that these concepts can be confusing to some, this bill is rooted in misguidance and mistrust, and risks harm to children. By passing this bill, you would create a situation where the gender of any child could be openly questioned and attacked. There are no studies or data to show that harm results to cisgender children from the <1% of transgender children who participate in school sports, however this is a vast amount showing data of harmful bills like this directly correlating to increased mental distress and suicide rates of LGBTQIA+ youth. Furthermore, we believe that school sports programs should be focused on skill development, teamwork, and physical fitness, rather than divisive policies that create barriers to participation. If the primary goal is to ensure a fair and equitable playing field, it should include measures that honor diversity and respect individual identities. Most importantly, we worry about how this bill will be enforced and the potential risk of allowing sexual predators to take advantage of children by requiring genital or chest exams.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their **opposition to SB50 Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Sports - Designation (Fairness in Girls' Sports Act) and requests an unfavorable report.**

The pediatric advanced practice nurses of your state are grateful to you for your attention to these crucial issues. The Maryland Chapter of NAPNAP membership includes over 200 primary and acute care pediatric nurse practitioners who are committed to improving the health and advocating for our state’s pediatric patients. If we can be of any further assistance, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Maryland Chapter legislative chair, Dr. JD Murphy, at mdchesnapnapleg@outlook.com.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jessica D. Murphy DNP, CPNP-AC, CPHON, CNE
Maryland Chapter Legislative Chair

Dr. Evgenia Ogorodova DNP, CPNP-PC
Chapter Legislative Co-Chair

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