

Written Testimony for SB 50 *Fairness in Girls' Sports Act* (UNF)

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I am writing to express my opposition to SB 50, a piece of legislation that, in addition to being bigoted, represents a waste of taxpayer resources and a general risk to Maryland youth. Apart from the lack of evidence of an advantage for transgender youth competing in sports, as well as a failure to account for the many determinants of competitive advantage that exist outside of gender, the attitude towards youth sports this bill promotes misses the point of what they exist to achieve. Youth sports exist to foster a sense of community, to provide safe opportunities for recreation, and to teach valuable concepts like teamwork and perseverance. Legislation like this restricts an already vulnerable population from accessing those benefits, without any evidence that doing so protects cisgender youth. In fact, it endangers all youth by normalizing gender and body surveillance by adults who have no business engaging in it, increasing the likelihood of disturbing and abusive behavior towards minors, which we have already seen a rise in with the fomentation of anti-Trans sentiment. At a time when Marylanders are facing an array of acute, material challenges (in our schools especially), it is unconscionable that our representatives are wasting precious resources on such poorly conceived legislation.