

Bill: SB50  
Position: Unfavorable  
Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment  
February 15, 2026

**Unfavorable Testimony for Education – Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Sports – Designation (Fairness in Girls' Sports Act)**

Honorable Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee,

My name is Coen Doss, and I am a Master of Social Work student at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, a member of Maryland's LGBTQIA+ community, and a resident of Legislative District 32. I am writing to express my **strong opposition to SB50**. The proposed bill to exclude transgender girls from girls' sports is not really about fairness, safety, or the integrity of women's athletics. Instead, this legislation is a deliberate act of social targeting, designed to further marginalize a tiny, vulnerable population for political gain, and in doing so, inflicts psychological and emotional harm on children under the guise of protection.

Transgender girls are like any other adolescents who simply want to belong, to play alongside their friends, to be part of a team, to experience the camaraderie and confidence that sports can foster. By legally mandating their exclusion, this bill does not protect girls but in fact publicly humiliates and ostracizes a group of them. It tells them, in the language of law, that they are not real, that they are a threat, and that they are unwelcome in a quintessential part of childhood and community. It forces them to stand aside, or worse, to undergo invasive scrutiny about their bodies. This is state-sanctioned bullying. The malice is in the message it sends to every transgender girl—you are different, you are wrong, and you do not deserve to participate in the ordinary rituals of growing up.

Furthermore, this bill exploits and demeans cisgender girls. It reduces them to mere props in a political spectacle, portraying them as too fragile to compete alongside transgender peers. It steals the focus from real issues girls face in sports like underfunding, lack of media coverage, or harassment, and instead directs animosity toward a marginalized group. The true "protection" girls need is from being used as pawns in a culture war that fuels discrimination.

Ultimately, this legislation serves no practical sporting purpose. Its impact is purely symbolic and deeply punitive. It exists to create a visible "other", to rally a base by manufacturing a crisis where none exists, and to codify intolerance into law. The suffering it causes is not an unintended side effect. The cruelty is the point.

For these reasons, **I urge an unfavorable report on SB50.**

Thank you for your consideration,

Coen Doss (he/they)  
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