TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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

POSITION: Unfavorable

BY: Linda T. Kohn, President

Date: February 18, 2026

The League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD) is a nonpartisan organization that works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. At the 2020 LWVUS Convention, delegates voted to amend the LWVUS bylaws to include the League's commitment to its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Policy in Article II as one of the foundational policies of the organization alongside the Political Policy (also referred to as the Nonpartisan Policy). In addition, the League of Women Voters of the United States joined an amicus brief challenging an Idaho law that would bar all women and girls who are transgender and some intersex women and girls, from participating on school sports teams consistent with their gender identity.

LWVMD opposes **SB 50 Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams - Designation (Fairness in Girls' Sports Act)** because it requires that men's or women's sports teams be based only on biological sex. This discriminates against transgender students, depriving them of the benefits of participating in sports. As stated in the amicus brief (p. 6), "Sports participation enhances women and girls' physical health and emotional and psychological well-being, improves their educational prospects, and expands their social networks. These benefits are especially important for girls who are transgender and intersex—who are at heightened risk for feelings of isolation, discrimination, harassment and low self-esteem—and they should not be excluded from these critical opportunities."

Please give an unfavorable report to SB 50.