

SCOTT ATHEN

February 14, 2026

POSITION: SUPPORT

To the members of the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee:

As a parent, I strongly support Senate Bill 50, the Fairness in Girls' Sports Act, and ask for a favorable report on this important legislation to protect female high school athletes.

SB 50 would simply ensure a level playing field for girls' sports by only allowing biological girls (born female) to play on girls' high school interscholastic and intramural junior varsity and varsity teams. This bipartisan legislation would protect girls' physical safety, protect girls' records, and ensure Title IX opportunities for collegiate and other competitive athletic opportunities are protected for female high school athletes.

Recent national polling demonstrates that a strong majority of Americans oppose allowing biologically male athletes who identify as female to compete in women's sports. A New York Times/Ipsos survey of U.S. adults found that 79% of respondents said "transgender female athletes — meaning athletes who were male at birth but who currently identify as female — should not be allowed to compete in women's sports," and that 67% of self-identified Democrats or Democrat-leaning respondents shared this view. A separate New York Times/Ipsos poll, summarized in national coverage, likewise reported that 79% of Americans, including 67% of Democrats, believed transgender female athletes should not be permitted to participate on women's sports teams. These findings show that concern for preserving fairness in women's sports is broad and bipartisan, not limited to one party or ideology.

This legislation has never been about exclusion. This is about allowing for fair and meaningful competition on the field of play for female high school athletes.

Biological differences matter in competitive sports, and boys and girls are biologically distinct. Scientific research confirms that males, on average, have greater muscle mass, bone density, speed, and strength than females, even after puberty blockers or hormone therapy in many cases, and major medical and sports bodies have recognized these differences when crafting eligibility rules for elite competition. This is about biology and recognizing the clear and obvious biological advantages that boys have over girls.

Senate Bill 50 is about fairness, equal opportunity, and safety. Now is the time for Maryland to pass legislation protecting female athletes, as many other states have already done by adopting laws that require participation in scholastic girls' sports based on biological sex.

I urge you to support SB 50. Thank you for your kind attention and consideration.

Sincerely,



Scott Athen