

SB0050

UNFAVORABLE

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB50, "Fairness in Girls' Sports Act"

February 16, 2026

TO: Honorable Chair Brian Feldman, Vice Chair Cheryl Kagan, and members of Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

Chair Feldman and members of the committee, my name is Shiwei Cheng. Supporters of SB50 say that it is "not about trans people," but by attempting to narrow the scope to "biological sex," it inherently will unfairly impact trans people - which is precisely what supporters of this bill are hoping for. The designers of this bill are creating an imaginary bogeyman of transphobia under the guise of protecting girls. However, the implications of this bill are far-reaching and come at irreparable expense to all girls. Society has already seen the cost of the social policing of gender norms - women being followed, threatened, and assaulted for being themselves simply because of someone else's perception of them. Think of the ways this bill would be enforced, exposing vulnerable children to surveillance in ways they should never be exposed.

In December 2024, NCAA President Charlie Baker testified that there were fewer than 10 transgender athletes (out of a total of 510,000 nationwide) participating in the NCAA, making up only 0.002%. There are ZERO known cases of a transgender girl being awarded an athletics scholarship. This bill creates a problem that does not exist. Transgender girls who want to participate in sports are simply young girls who want the chance to play just like their peers. By excluding them from a being able to participate in community, you increase the likelihood (reportedly, 8 times higher) that transgender and nonbinary youth will attempt suicide. I would like to ask, to what end? So that all girls must face examination, surveillance and punishment if they don't conform to society's gender standard?

The ban that this bill proposes does not address the real issues of inequality impacting women's sports: unequal funding for girls' athletics, Black and Brown girls disproportionately lacking access to participate in sports, societal perception that girls' and women's sports aren't as important as boys' or men's sports, or abuse and harassment of girls and women by coaches, doctors, and other athletic officials.

I urge you to OPPOSE SB50 and help ensure that ALL children, regardless of gender expression, are free and safe to be the children and athletes they desire to be.

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