

SB0050 - Fairness in Girls' Sports Act (UNF)

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Chair and members of the committee,

I am writing today to urge you to oppose Senate Bill 50.

I taught for several years in Baltimore County at Franklin HS in Reisterstown. I saw firsthand how important it is for young people to feel included and supported at school. Sports are about much more than competition—they're about teamwork, belonging, social and physical health. When transgender girls are singled out and banned from joining girls' teams, we're not protecting anyone. We're causing real, undo harm.

I've watched policies where any girl who doesn't fit someone's idea of how a girl should look or act can be singled out and questioned, creating an atmosphere of fear and suspicion. This is completely unnecessary and dangerous. I worry about my Black and Brown students, and those who don't conform to stereotypes, being targeted just for trying out for a team. I worry about the risk of invasive and humiliating "gender checks"—and the message that sends to all our students.

Why is this being given so much attention? Destructive attention? The science is clear—when a transgender girl has been on hormone therapy, their body adapts and adjusts. It comes in line with other cisgender females. Meanwhile, the facts are clear. There is no evidence of transgender girls taking over girls' sports in Maryland. Nationally, fewer than ten transgender women compete among more than half a million college athletes. And the best science shows there's no inherent, unfair advantage—just young people trying to find community, joy, and a sense of autonomy.

As a former teacher, I know how important it is for all students to feel safe and welcome. We can do better. Marylanders should focus on real issues—like unequal funding, access, and keeping all our kids safe from abuse—not singling out a few for exclusion, separation, and isolation. This is not who we as Marylanders want to be known for. Please, vote NO on Senate Bill 50. Let every kid in Maryland know they are valued and belong.

Thank you.

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