

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Senate Bill 50
Unfavorable

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

One Pasadena: Building a Safe and Inclusive Community is an anti-bigotry group in Anne Arundel County. Students have reported anti-trans harassment, threats, and violence in Pasadena.

Senate Bill 50 is, like other anti-transgender bills that we've seen in Maryland and nationwide, designed to harm transgender children specifically. It would force transgender children to disclose that they're transgender, which makes them significantly less safe in many areas, including Pasadena. It would cause mental distress, even for transgender kids who aren't interested in playing sports. It would encourage prejudice against transgender people.

We are also greatly concerned about how someone would determine that a student is transgender. If a student or parent decides that someone who is playing sports is transgender, would that child then be subject to a physical examination, forced to expose their genitals? Despite what the sponsor may argue, not every child's physical exam includes nudity. And aren't we teaching children bodily autonomy?

What would be the recourse if the student or parent is wrong? What would be the recourse if the motivation of the report is simply to harm a student they don't like? Would cisgender students feel pressured to change how they look in order to avoid being targeted by other parents and students who make ignorant assumptions?

No child should be bullied, harassed, or threatened. Transgender children are at an especially high risk of these abuses, both in schools and their communities. We need to stop putting targets on their backs. We need to protect them as we would any child. Please give Senate Bill 50 an unfavorable report. Thank you.

Sincerely,
The One Pasadena Steering Committee
Pasadena, MD