

EZRA MACLEOD TOWNE

Testimony Unfavorable to SB0050: Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams - Designation (Fairness in Girls' Sports Act)

February 16, 2026

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair, Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice-Chair, and esteemed members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee:

My name is Ezra Towne, and my pronouns are they/them. I am a transmasculine nonbinary person with two children in Montgomery County Public Schools. **I am writing to you today to ask you to vote unfavorably on SB0050** - the Fairness in Girls' Sports Act.

HB0050 is not about fairness - it is about discrimination, and about creating an atmosphere of fear.

Transgender girls are girls. Every single teenage friend of my daughter knows this to be true, and would defend their transgender friends' rights to participate in the girls' sport of their choice. Formally discriminating against trans girls only undoes the progress of understanding and compassion that students have developed for their peers.

SB0050 creates an atmosphere of fear in two ways:

1. Girls who express their gender in a more masculine fashion may be singled out and accused of being trans - making even their participation in sports uncertain. Algerian boxer Imane Khelif was accused of being a transgender man in the 2024 Olympic Games, despite having been born female. Media about Khelif focused on her being "mannish" rather than sticking to the facts.¹ Also in 2024, a 16 year old cisgender girl in Utah faced threats after a school board member questioned her gender - because of her short hair, baggy clothes, and muscles she developed at the gym.²
2. It opens the possibility of requiring genital inspections of young girls - whether they are cisgender or trans. This is in itself a traumatic experience, and it does nothing to address the real issue of abuse and harassment of girls and women by coaches and team doctors.

The so-called "Fairness in Girls' Sports Act" is meant to address the purported advantages that transgender girl bodies have over cisgender girl bodies. Research shows that there is no valid physical advantage for transgender women in athletic capabilities.³

Proponents of laws like SB0050 sometimes argue that high school transgender athletes can simply play on co-ed teams. This ignores the fact the overwhelming majority of sports are separated by sex. Requiring transgender girls to only play what co-ed sports are available separates them from their friends, and in most cases completely prohibits them from playing sports at all. Participating in sports along with your friends and school cohort builds confidence,

instills pride, and challenges athletes to be their personal best. Both cisgender and transgender girls just want to be able to play their chosen sport along with their fellow girl identified athletes.

For these reasons, I ask for an **unfavorable report on SB0050** - Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams - Designation (Fairness in Girls' Sports Act).

Sincerely,
Ezra MacLeod Towne
Wheaton, D18

¹<https://www.nbcnews.com/nbc-out/out-news/imane-khelif-boxing-win-olympics-gender-eligibility-rcna164662>

²<https://abcnews.go.com/US/utah-school-board-official-falsely-suggested-teen-girl/story?id=107100300>

³[Strength, power and aerobic capacity of transgender athletes: a cross-sectional study | British Journal of Sports Medicine](#)