

The Honorable Chair
Senator Brian J. Feldman
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: OPPOSITION of Senate Bill 0050
Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Sports -
Designation (Fairness in Girls' Sports Act)**

To the Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and esteemed members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

My name is Rachel Luce and I am a resident of Baltimore City. I am writing to name my opposition to SB0050 the "Fairness In Girls' Sports Act". This bill does not protect girls in sports, it exposes all girls to more harm by creating an environment of fear, encouraging false allegations, and laying the groundwork for invasive and discriminatory screenings that open the door to abuse by coaches, doctors and other athletic staff.

All girls who do not conform to gender stereotypes are at risk of harassment. A cisgendered girl who has short hair, wears baggy clothing or has muscles due to their sports training— like the 16yr old girl from Utah in 2024, had her gender questioned by an adult on the State Board of Education via social media. This ignited a campaign of cyberbullying towards a girl whose only offense was not fitting into gender norms.

Scientific studies, including a 2024 study in the British Journal of Sports Medicine funded in part by the International Olympic Committee, have found that trans women do not have inherent advantages when participating in sports, finding they had similar bone density and hemoglobin profiles to cisgender women, as well as decreased lower-body strength and lung function relative to cisgender women.

Rather than protecting women's sports, bills like SB0050 bans on trans girls in sports encourage bullying, discrimination, and even violence against women and girls. Subjecting all girls to invasive genital inspections, to prove they are girls increases the well documented risk of athletes being abused by coaches and team doctors. Children should live free from fear of harassment and unfair scrutiny of any kind. They deserve to play the sports that give them a sense of purpose and belonging.

For these reasons and many more, **I ask the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to give SB0050 an unfavorable report.**

Sincerely,
Rachel Luce