



### **Senate Bill 50**

Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Sports -  
Designation (Fairness in Girls' Sports Act)

### **Oppose**

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

We proudly present comments from Marylanders opposing SB50. This legislation targets kids who just want to belong, build confidence, and participate in school like everyone else. School sports are about teamwork, discipline, and joy. Singling out trans students for exclusion does nothing to improve fairness or safety, and instead opens the door to more discrimination, bullying, stigma, and harm.

#### **Public Comments:**

Targeting already marginalized kids is wrong. How about pushing for non-sex segregated sports instead of trying to stop any kids from playing sports? I'm a parent of a trans six year old girl, and I will fight for her rights.

– K'lila Nooning, Silver Spring

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I oppose SB50, Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Locker Rooms – Designation Based on Sex. I do not believe its claim to provide "fairness."

Organized sports provide a host of benefits for children: team building; opportunities for growth and personal development; and lessons about resilience and perseverance. This bill seeks to deny those benefits for children who do not conform to their limited definitions. By confining gender to "biological sex," this bill erases the very existence of intersex and nonbinary children and denies that trans girls are girls and trans boys and boys.

It is very telling to me that this bill purports to "protect girls." The suggestion that girls need protecting in this regard while boys don't speaks volumes. The writers are willing to subject cisgender girls who do not conform to their limited definitions to abuse from their peers who don't believe that they are cis. This puts all girls--trans and cis--in danger, by heightening scrutiny around their gender presentation. This bill gives any student standing to sue any school they feel has violated this principle, and also to sue anyone who that student felt retaliated against them for doing so. Such a bill would open the door for cis girls being subjected to public

hounding based on someone's opinion of what they look like. That hardly sounds like "protection" to me.

This bill, like many being presented around the country, is obviously part of the larger Republican strategy to remove trans people from society, by making it harder and harder for them to participate in American life. It begins with denying trans children the right to play with their friends, and expands into removing rights to health care, rights to work, rights to hold identification that affirms who they are for trans adults.

As a sanctuary state, Maryland has a responsibility to protect its citizens from discriminatory bills like this.

For these reasons, I oppose this bill, and I respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on HB50.

– Emily Dwyer, Columbia

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– Amy Isler, Catonsville

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Vote no on SB50: science has shown that transgender women do not have inherent advantages over cisgender women in sports. Do not make unscientific and bigoted beliefs law.

– Lisa SL, Columbia

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I stand firmly against prohibiting trans girls from participating in girls' sports. There is more and more research showing that trans girls and women do not have an advantage over cis-gender girls/women. Here is one such research paper: <https://bjsm.bmj.com/content/58/11/586>

– Carroll County Resident, Hampstead

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I oppose these bills and any other bills that target trans kids. These bills infringe on the rights of children and their parents.

– Catonsville Resident

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Trans rights are human rights. They belong here. They deserve to have gender affirming health care. It saves lives. And they belong to participate in sports. These bills will harm young individuals who just want to live their lives.

– Kathryn Blanco, Hyattsville

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Inclusion has no exceptions.

– Josue Blaco, Hyattsville

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All people are made in the image of God. It is not our job to judge this and make laws targeting trans kids and families, even if you feel iffy about it.

– Levente Sabath, Mount Rainier

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There should never be laws penalizing humans striving to become their truest selves. This represents the ugliest form of persecution and hatred and the state of Maryland must never be part of the evil brought to us by people who revel in hatred and cruelty.

– Elizabeth Broughton, Greenbelt

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I strongly oppose SB50 and HB63 prohibiting trans girls participating in girls' sports. I am the parent of an amazing trans grandson and know the complicated world that he has to navigate without these prohibitions.

– Bob Sabath, Mount Rainer

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I'm writing to urge you to oppose SB50.

Banning trans girls from participating in sports doesn't address the real issues impacting girls' sports today, including

- Unequal funding for girls' athletics, with the gap in spending increasing significantly since 2009,
- Black and Brown girls disproportionately lack access to participate in sports in the first place,
- 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.

Thank you for all that you do for your constituents!

– Heather Mitchell-Buck, Jefferson

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Thank you for all that you do for your constituents!

– Justin Townsend, Rockville

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Regarding SB50 & HB63, I am requesting the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee review research-backed, factual information about trans women athletes:

- 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.
- 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 is a non-issue and a waste of your time and Marylanders' tax dollars. We have many issues with our education system that could be addressed, and it is beyond disappointing to see this being framed as an important issue to focus on.

– Elizabeth Estochen, Annapolis

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Oppose Harmful Bills Targeting Trans Kids!

– Peter Sabath, Mount Rainer

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Some kids love sports. When you're a kid, not an Olympian, it shouldn't matter who's team you're on. You should just get to play.

– Meredith Stafford, Frederick

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As a clinical social worker working with adolescents and families I have seen the impacts of anxiety, depression and isolation from identity and community first hand. Adolescents are particularly vulnerable when they are not supported in their health needs from mental to physical needs. Being seen and validated for who they are is vital to their mental health and significantly decreases suicide attempts and completed suicides. This has been proven in multiple studies. One example is as:

Claire A Coyne, Briahna T Yuodsnukis & Diane Chen (2023) Gender Dysphoria: Optimizing Healthcare for Transgender and Gender Diverse Youth with a Multidisciplinary Approach, *Neuropsychiatric Disease and Treatment*, , 479-493, DOI: 10.2147/NDT.S359979

<https://doi.org/10.2147/NDT.S359979>

Working with health care providers who specialize in this area is also vital to support adolescents and families in options and assess what needs exist.

Additionally, we know that participation in community sports and school sports allows teens to feel a sense of belonging, encourages movement and improves mental health outcomes, regardless of identity. That said, given that trans and non binary youth are statistically more likely to be isolated, anxious and depressed, it is even more important for them to have these opportunities during this fragile time in their development. Taking these away will be detrimental to their quality of life.

Thank you for your time in reading this. I urge you to continue allowing access to gender affirming care for youth and allow participation in sports. If you choose otherwise you are responsible for discrimination and harm to this vulnerable group of youth.

– Mental Health Provider, Ellicott City

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These bills are harmful to trans children. Actions like these contribute to high rates of depression and suicidality amongst trans youth. Trans youth just want to play sports like their friends. They are not trying to hurt anyone or take anything from other children. Bans on gender affirming care also violate parents' rights to make medical decisions for their children. Please reconsider this terrible legislation. Marylanders support all children, we don't pick and choose.

– Shanta Trivedi, Chevy Chase

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Don't support anti-trans bills. These bills are pushed by people that are ignorant at best or malicious at worst. The fear mongering over trans people is merely a dividing action to distract from the pedophiles and rapists that actually threaten our children. We don't care nearly as much about problems that kill kids every year (like school shooters, obesity, and cigarettes), maybe we should focus on those instead of wasting government and social time on innocent people?

– Christopher Rider, Frederick

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