

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 Nooria Ahmed, 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 take into account peer reviewed scientific studies about trans women in sports which show that trans girls do not have an inherent advantage in sports.

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.

As a transgender woman myself, I've spent a lot of my adult life doing various forms of martial arts. It's helped me find an incredible sense of community and safety, despite my utter lack of skill. It's also involved me getting my face kicked in by a variety of people with vastly more skill than me, which includes plenty of cisgendered women. I can personally attest to the lack of inherent advantages that trans women possess, even in something like combat sports.

And beyond the fact that trans girls have no inherent advantages in sports, the act of denying these kids the community, joy and love that goes into playing sports will do nothing but hurt their ability to feel connected with their peers.

Further, 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, cis and trans alike. 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.

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

-Nooria Ahmed, 21218

