



**The Greater Ocean City, Maryland
Chamber of Commerce, Inc.**

**TESTIMONY OFFERED ON BEHALF OF
THE GREATER OCEAN CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**IN SUPPORT OF
HB 1659 Maryland Stadium Authority – Youth and Amateur Sports Grants Program and Fund
BEFORE THE Appropriations Committee**

March 12, 2020

The Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, representing more than 930 regional Business and Organizations, strongly supports **HB 1659 Maryland Stadium Authority – Youth and Amateur Sports Grants Program and Fund**.

This bill would establish the Youth and Amateur Sports Grants Program to provide grants from the Youth and Amateur Sports Fund to bring new youth and amateur events to the State and attract sports fans, participants, and tourists; requiring Maryland Sports to implement and administer the Program in a certain manner; requiring the Comptroller to distribute a certain amount of money from the State Lottery Fund to the Youth and Amateur Sports Fund each fiscal year; etc.

Ocean City and Worcester County have established youth and amateur sports as a high priority in their respective strategic plans, as it is a multi-billion-dollar industry. There is tremendous potential and opportunity to bring more quality events and sports tourism to Maryland with an established fund to attract event promoters. In addition, we are working on infrastructure such as athletic fields as well as a large-scale sports complex to accommodate such business.

The Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce Membership respectfully requests a Favorable Report for **HB 1659 Maryland Stadium Authority – Youth and Amateur Sports Grants Program and Fund**.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding the position of the Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce at 410-213-0144 ext 102.

Sincerely,

Melanie A. Pursel, M.S.- President & CEO