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February 26, 2020

**Support HB 1346 – Youth Sports Safety Advisory Commission Support**

Dear Chairwoman Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington, and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am here to introduce HB 1346 which would establish a commission of members to study evidence-based policies and practices for maximizing safety for youth athletes. The members, as amended, would invite stakeholder input to review the evolving science related to youth sports safety and make a recommendation from their findings.

These members would include nationally recognized leaders on concussions and traumatic brain injuries, physicians, athletic trainers, nurses, coaches, athletic administrators, officials from the recreation and parks association, among others that would meet over the course of the year. They will be tasked with reviewing and researching the evolving science that would affect practices done in youth sports programs. Using these findings, the commission should seek input from nationally recognized, sport appropriate, governing bodies to come to a conclusion on the best way to reduce health risks for youth athletes at the different ages or skill levels. The commission will make a recommendation of how the best practices to minimize injury risk will be implemented into youth sports programs across the State.

This legislation begins the process of understanding the needs of youth sports safety in Maryland. Waiting for youth sports safety policies from other states is not doing enough to understand the long term health risks involved. This commission will have a heavy focus on finding the best ways to improve safety and minimize the long term health risks all while optimizing youth sports participation. I ask for your favorable report on HB 1346.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terri Hill".

Terri Hill, M.D.