



March 21, 2023

FAVORABLE: HB 343

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

As a youth basketball organization, the A. G. Elite Warriors (“The Warriors”) organization cannot express how important it is to support Maryland HB 343. The bill aims to allow public school students additional participation in NCAA Live recruiting and evaluation periods and offers great equity. Maryland public school students are not allowed to participate in these events, while private school students are. Since the passage of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future, many tout the legislation’s comprehensive approach to ensuring students’ success, but it seems to overlook the student-athlete.

Let us remember that many young people need athletics as a pastime and a real opportunity for success, development, discipline, and mental health. Many of our team members rely on and appreciate the consistency playing basketball offers them. We have seen those same students improve their grades, taking pride in the ability and opportunity to go to college, where they may not have ever expected to have that opportunity. Athletics becomes a viable pathway to high education and financial stability.

The NCAA recruiting period is crucial for high school students who aspire to play college sports, particularly basketball. During this time, college coaches can evaluate players and offer scholarships. However, as things currently stand, Maryland public school students cannot participate, which puts them at a significant disadvantage compared to private school students. HB 343 aims to level the playing field. The fact that no public-school basketball player in Maryland was offered a sports-based collegiate scholarship during the 2022-23 school year is a concerning trend that needs to be addressed. The passage of HB 343 could be the solution to this program.

In conclusion, we urge the committee to support Maryland HB 343 fully! It takes an essential step in ensuring that all kids, including Public School students, have the same opportunities as their counterparts in Athletics. The NCAA recruiting period is limited, so regardless of their school, students should have the chance to showcase their skills during this time. Passing this bill is essential in ensuring equity and increasing the likelihood of securing a college scholarship.



For these reasons, The Warriors, urge a favorable report on HB 343!

A.G. Elite Warriors Organization
"The Warriors"
www.agelitewarriors.org