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Chair

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 6, 2023

RE: Testimony HB343, Education - Public School Athletics - Basketball Schedule

Good afternoon, Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee.

For the record, I am Delegate Regina T. Boyce testifying today on **HB343 Education - Public School Athletics - Basketball Schedule**. This bill passed this committee and the House as HB1429 in 2020.

HB343 extends the current basketball schedule from 20 regular season games to 22 regular season games to accommodate tournament or showcase games. Each county board of elections must decide whether to authorize a team to play in a tournament or showcase game, but is not required to. HB343 will allow a team to play up to 4 tournament games and a number of showcase games determined by the county board per year including during a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Evaluation Period. This also includes play in a tournament or showcase game against a team from out of the state if the out of state team has equivalent qualifications to those qualifications of those required of the in-state team.

For reference, the NCAA Evaluation Periods occur in June for basketball student athletes. Per Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) school athletic teams may not participate in any contest representing their schools before or after the defined sports season and must conform practices to seasonal limitations. Due to this, public school basketball players cannot play and/or have the potential to be recruited during the NCAA June Evaluation Period.

HB343 creates equitable opportunity for public school students, aligning them with the same opportunities as their nonpublic school peers for basketball exposure, competitiveness, and recruitment.

Thank you for your time and consideration of HB343. I ask for a favorable report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Regina T. Boyce".

Regina T. Boyce