

GARY SIMMONS
Legislative District 12B
Anne Arundel County

Judiciary Committee
Subcommittees

Criminal Law and Procedure
Family and Juvenile Law



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 20, 2024

Dear Madam Chair Peña-Melnyk and members of the committee

Re: HB686: Youth Sports Programs - Venue-Specific Emergency Action Plans - Requirements

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for HB686, which seeks to establish comprehensive emergency action plans for youth sports programs. As a concerned member of our community and an avid advocate for the well-being of our youth, I believe this legislation is crucial in ensuring the safety and health of young athletes participating in sports activities.

The proposed bill's requirements for youth sports programs to develop venue-specific emergency action plans is a significant step toward minimizing the risks associated with athletic events. By mandating the inclusion of vital elements such as the operation and use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs), provision of first aid, and coordination of care for specific injuries and severe weather conditions; this legislation demonstrates a **proactive approach** to safeguarding the well-being of our young athletes.

One of the most commendable aspects of HB686 is its emphasis on transparency and accessibility. Requiring youth sports programs facilities to make their emergency action plans readily available on premises ensures that parents, guardians, coaches, and other stakeholders have easy access to crucial safety equipment. This option brings trust and confidence among the community members, assuring them that the safety of their children is a top priority for the organizations providing the facilities for youth sports programs.

By enacting HB686, our state has an opportunity to set a standard for youth sports safety, demonstrating our commitment to the well-being of our children and the importance of fostering a secure and nurturing environment for their athletic pursuits.

Please consider the long-term benefits HB686 can bring to our community by ensuring that youth sports program facilities have comprehensive emergency action plans. The proactive measures outlined in this bill have the potential to save lives, prevent injuries, and contribute to a culture of safety and responsibility within our youth sports community.

I appreciate your dedication to the well-being of our community's youth, and I strongly encourage you to support and pass HB686.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary Simmons".

Delegate Simmons