

SHELLY HETTLEMAN
Legislative District 11
Baltimore County

Appropriations Committee

Education and Economic Development
Subcommittee

Oversight Committee on Personnel



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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TESTIMONY OF SHELLY HETTLEMAN
HIGHER EDUCATION - POLICY ON STUDENT CONCERNS ABOUT ATHLETIC PROGRAMS
AND ACTIVITIES - SHORT TITLE
HB 326

In the wake of the tragic death of University of Maryland football player Jordan McNair, a number of concerning issues arose about the general culture of some athletic programs and the treatment of players. Unfortunately, there were no provisions or formal channels for athletes to express concerns about their programs. Last year, I introduced HB 876, which begins to address those issues.

Students are loathe to complain to their coaches and athletic directors. They fear retribution that may limit playing time, jeopardize standing on the team, or would result in them being labeled as weak by teammates and coaches.

HB 876 provides students with an avenue where they can express their concerns anonymously (if they choose) and to resource it outside of the athletic department. The school is now required to notify the students about this process, publish it to their website and report back to the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the General Assembly regarding how many times this process has been used.

No process, program or law will bring back Jordan McNair. Since their son's death, the McNair family has been tireless in advocating to ensure that student athletes are protected and that other families do not have to suffer the tragedy that they have suffered.

HB 326 honors the legacy of Jordan McNair by renaming the section of Maryland law we changed last year via the student athlete protection bill. We, and more importantly, his family, believe this is an important means of honoring Jordan's memory.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB 326 to formally title the bill the Jordan McNair Act. Thank you.