

TERRI L. HILL, M.D.
Legislative District 12
Baltimore and Howard Counties

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Subcommittees

Estates and Trusts

Insurance



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 215
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3378 · 301-858-3378
800-492-7122 Ext. 3378
Fax 410-841-3197 · 301-858-3197
Terri.Hill@house.state.md.us

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,

HB 1346 would establish a Youth Sports Advisory Commission to stay current on and review evolving science and evidence-based data regarding recreation and sports activities and their short and long term impact on youth athletes so as to make timely recommendation regarding policies and practices that maximizing health benefit for youth athletes.

The area of sports safety and best practices is rapidly evolving on all levels and in all arenas, from NASCAR, to swimming, and at every level. Whether the frequently discussed issues of head trauma, Traumatic Brain Injury and Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, or the changing views of the relative benefits of sports specialization at an early age versus multiple sport activity, as more information becomes available ideas about how to best serve the athletes and the sports is changing.

By establishing a commission of sports, health and policy experts, to look at evolving science and national best practices, we put Maryland in a better position to ensure that, at least where our most vulnerable athletes – children – area concerned, our approach for reduce health risks for youth athletes at the different ages or skill levels, becomes more thoughtful and less reactionary and capricious. The commission's roles is completely advisory with recommendations being open for consideration, rejection or adoption by individual youth sports leagues at the local level, as well as to state-wide supervisory and oversight entities.

I ask for your favorable report.

Terri L. Hill, M.D.