

FROM THE DESK OF
JERAMI GRANT

Testimony before the Environmental and Transportation Committee
Maryland General Assembly
Hearing on HB 1347
March 11, 2011

Chairman Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 1347, sponsored by Chairman Barve. While the bill seems simple, it's extremely important.

I grew up in a basketball house. My father and uncle both played professional basketball and my brother's and I grew up playing every chance we could. We were always looking for any excuse to get out of the house and practice. We had a basketball hoop at our house and were also afforded incredible opportunities to play in gyms and new facilities and learn from incredible coaches and trainers. Our access to such facilities, along with the love and support of my family and coaches, played no small part in my receiving an incredible education at DeMatha Catholic High School and then later at Syracuse University before starting my NBA career in 2014.

But for far too many children in Prince George's County and across the state of Maryland, access to safe places to play basketball is becoming the exception not the rule. The Covid-19 pandemic has only made this worse with recreation departments taking down basketball rims at public parks. Additionally, the "pay to play" nature of youth sports these days makes it difficult for many families to keep their kids participating in sports all year long. For many families a roll-up basketball hoop may be the only athletic outlet they have for their kids. Criminalizing basketball hoops by home-owners associations is short cited at best and discriminatory at worst. It needs to stop.

I ask for your support of HB 1347.

Sincerely,

Jerami Grant