

WRITTEN TESTIMONY - SB 638 - MARCH 8 2022.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Douglas Phillips

Position: FAV

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF
DOUGLAS J. PHILLIPS**

**IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATIVE BILL SB 638
ELIJAH GORHAM ACT**

TESTIMONY DATE: MARCH 8, 2022

Hello, my name is Douglas J. Phillips. I am a former head varsity coach at a Baltimore City high school, a board member of a large youth lacrosse organization, and the attorney for Ms. Shantres Shaw, the mother of Elijah Gorham. I have spent many hours over the past months reviewing Elijah’s specific case and gathering information on the needs and challenges facing athletes and coaches in Maryland. Our question is, “How can future unnecessary deaths be prevented?” Today, I am here to provide oral testimony in support of **Senate Bill 638, known as The Elijah Gorham Act.**

Ms. Shaw poured her efforts into her son Elijah. He became a devoted son and brother, a motivated student, and a key contributor to the State Champion Mergenthaler Mustangs football program. On the day he suffered a traumatic brain injury, Elijah had scored a touchdown on a kick return and racked up yardage as a wide receiver. Elijah was a consummate competitor on the field and a shining light off the field.

Elijah’s death was not some isolated exception to an otherwise highly-functioning system. The standard of care afforded to many student athletes in Maryland high schools could be much better. As part of the legal process in this case, I spoke with experts in brain injuries and it became clear—delays due to disorganization are a death sentence to athletes in Elijah’s position. Elijah’s brain injury happened on the field at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute—arguably one of Maryland’s crown jewel public high schools—a short drive from University of Maryland’s Shock Trauma unit. If it could happen in that location it could happen anywhere—in an off season

practice session at a small high school on the Eastern Shore or a mid-season game at a suburban high school.

The Elijah Gorham Act is a down payment on making sure preventable deaths like Elijah's never happen again in Maryland.

Thank you for listening to my testimony and the experiences of the courageous Shaw-Gorham family.

1:20

SB638_FAV_JamesGorham.pdf

Uploaded by: James Gorham

Position: FAV

SB638/HB836 - SUPPORT

WRITTEN STATEMENT

**JAMES GORHAM
(Father of Elijah Gorham)**

Email: jimthebarber428@gmail.com Phone: 443-742-3589

SB638 / HB836 – SUPPORT

**Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
March 8, 2022**

**Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and Members of the Education, Health and Environmental
Affairs Committee**

Dear Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee:

On behalf of my son, Elijah Gorham, I am pleased to join the co-sponsors Delegate Brooke Lierman and Senator Shelly Hettleman by providing this statement in support of **Senate Bill 638 - Elijah Gorham Act**.

Senate Bill 638 is about saving the lives of student athletes at the middle and high school level. No child should lose their life due to lack of certified training, emergency action plans and devices needed in case of an emergency incident.

It will be a great accomplishment for athletes in the State of Maryland to have this bill signed urgently. It will help save the lives of current and future student athletes. I would be so proud to see it pass with my son's name attached to it so that his legacy will continue to live in all of us - 7 Strong.

On behalf of student athletes across the State of Maryland, I urge a favorable report on SB 638 in order to improve player safety and help save the lives of current and future student athletes no matter what sport they choose to play.

Thank you.

SB638_FAV_TheJordanMcNairFoundation.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Martin McNair

Position: FAV

SB638/HB836 - SUPPORT

MARTIN MCNAIR

THE JORDAN MCNAIR FOUNDATION

Email: jordanmcnairfoundation@gmail.org Phone: 443-676-7150

SB638 / HB836 – SUPPORT

**Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
March 8, 2022**

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and Members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

Good afternoon Mr. Chair, Madame Vice Chair and Members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee, my name is Martin McNair. I am the father of Jordan McNair and the Founder of The Jordan McNair Foundation. It is a pleasure to join the bill's co-sponsor Senator Shelly Hettleman by providing oral testimony in support of **Senate Bill 638 Elijah Gorham Act**. Since 2018, The Jordan McNair Foundation has been promoting education, awareness and prevention of heat-related illnesses and injuries as well as improving player safety in sports among Coaches, Parents, and Student Athletes.

Bill – SB 638 is necessary because the Centers for Disease Control reports that over 40 million U.S. children participate in organized youth sports and bear a disproportionate burden of sports injuries. Over the past 2-3 years, high school student athletes have been impacted by heat-related illness and injury and cardiac arrest more than any other levels of play.

The Jordan McNair Foundation strongly urges the passing of SB 638 primarily to help improve player safety which is also part of the Foundation's mission. The reigns need to be tightened on

Emergency Action Plans (EAPs), Heat Acclimatization and the trained use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and Cold Water Tubs among all Coaches, Athletic Directors and Trainers.

Many injury and death incidents among high school student athletes had to do with the lack of developing an EAP for each athletic field or venue, failure to review the EAP or too much time lapse between practices of the EAP. The Emergency Action Plan is equivalent to a fire drill. Fire drills occur so that everyone will know what to do in case of a fire. All coaches, athletic directors and trainers need to read, understand and more importantly practice the EAP – so that everyone will know their respective roles to help keep student athletes safe. We highly support the practicing of the Emergency Action Plans in March or April before Spring and Summer practices - which is peak season for incidents and again in August before Fall sports practices and games begin.

The passing of this bill is urgent as we don't need any other student athletes dying while playing sports. We don't need another Jordan McNair or Elijah Gorham who just died in October 2021 after an incident while playing high school football.

On behalf of student athletes across the State of Maryland, we urge a favorable report on SB 638 in order to improve player safety and help save the lives of current and future student athletes.

Thank you.

SB638_FAV_TheJordanMcNairFoundation.pdf

Uploaded by: Martin McNair

Position: FAV

SB638/HB836 - SUPPORT

MARTIN MCNAIR

THE JORDAN MCNAIR FOUNDATION

Email: jordanmcnairfoundation@gmail.org Phone: 443-676-7150

SB638 / HB836 – SUPPORT

**Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
March 8, 2022**

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and Members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

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The passing of this bill is urgent as we don't need any other student athletes dying while playing sports. We don't need another Jordan McNair or Elijah Gorham who just died in October 2021 after an incident while playing high school football.

On behalf of student athletes across the State of Maryland, we urge a favorable report on SB 638 in order to improve player safety and help save the lives of current and future student athletes.

Thank you.

STUDENT ATHLETES AFFECTED BY HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS OR PLAYER INJURY



Student Athletes Lost in 2021

NAME	AGE	NAME	AGE
KeeJay Blount	17	Cajetan Chinoyelum Nsofor	13
Miguel Lugo	17	Ivan Hicks, Jr	16
Emmanual "Manny" Antwi	18	Devon DuHart	16
Ignacio "Nacho" Gomez	23	Joshua Ivory Jr	15
Dale Martin	18	Stephen Sylvester	15
Bailey Bullock	16	Quandarius Wilburn	19
Jalen Gross	18	Drake Geiger	16
Ethan Trejo	16	Dimitri McKee	18
		Elijah Gorham	17

SHAW WRITTEN TESTIMONY - SB 638 - MARCH 8 2022.doc

Uploaded by: Shantres Shaw

Position: FAV

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF
SHANTRES SHAW
(MOTHER OF ELIJAH GORHAM)**

**IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATIVE BILL SB 638
ELIJAH GORHAM ACT**

TESTIMONY DATE: MARCH 8, 2022

Hello, my name is Shantres Shaw. I am the mother of Elijah Gorham. I am here to provide oral testimony in support of **Senate Bill 638, known as The Elijah Gorham Act.**

My son Elijah was a vibrant high school athlete who practiced and played football from a young age. He loved sports and was loved dearly by his family, peers, teachers and teammates. Elijah was the type of person who could uplift someone's spirits who seemed like they were having a bad day.

It was on the afternoon of September 18, 2021 that Elijah suffered an injury while playing in a high school football game in Baltimore. After being removed from the game, Elijah was allowed to go back in. After being tackled, he went down and laid on the ground for 60 minutes – **one whole hour** – before help came.

I am testifying today because I don't ever want to feel this pain that I have felt since Elijah died in October 2021. I don't want any parent to feel the pain that I feel because their child is no longer with them.

I am the guardian of 2 grandchildren ages 2 and 3. I'm also the aunt of a nephew who is a football player at City College, runs track and jumps the high pole. I need this bill to pass to protect my other family members as they may become more interested and active in sports. I need to have some peace of mind that there will be laws passed to help keep them safe and hold sports leadership accountable.

It feels like the incident with Elijah just happened yesterday. Had SB 638 been passed last term, it's possible that my son Elijah would still be here.

It gives me some relief knowing that Bill 638 will focus on Emergency Action Plans (EAPs), Heat Acclimatization and proper training and certification of CPR, Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and recognition of brain injuries/concussions among all Coaches, Athletic Directors and Trainers.

It was totally unacceptable for my son Elijah to lie on the ground 60 minutes before he received help. As I review information on high school athletes specifically, they are currently the most at risk due to lack of player safety protocols. I beg you to pass Senate Bill 638 **BEFORE** the new practice season begins this Spring. Practice season is when most incidents occur.

I am testifying today on behalf of my family, parents and student athletes at all levels of play, but especially High School because that's where Elijah played. His death should not be in vain, but represent a VICTORY within the State of Maryland. Passing The Elijah Gorham Act would represent a VICTORY and help save current and future STUDENT ATHLETES!

Thank you.

2:18

Hettleman SB638 .pdf

Uploaded by: Shelly Hettleman

Position: FAV



The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY OF SENATOR SHELLY HETTLEMAN
SB 638 PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENT ATHLETIC REQUIREMENTS AND REPORTS
THE ELIJAH GORHAM ACT

This bill is named in honor of Elijah Gorham, a 17-year-old Baltimore City student-athlete who tragically died on October 11, 2021 after suffering a brain injury during a football game a month earlier.

Jordan McNair (19 years old), Marquese Meadow (18 years old)¹, and Elijah Gorham (17 years old). These are the names of Maryland college and high school students who have lost their lives while playing their beloved sport. There are no words to describe the pain and anguish these families and communities have experienced. And, when examining the circumstances surrounding their deaths, it's hard not to believe that more could have been done to prevent them.

Student-athletes are quite vulnerable to experiencing sports-related injuries. According to research conducted by the National Athletic Trainers Association, "90 percent of student-athletes report some sort of sports-related injury." ² Fifty-four percent of student-athletes have reported playing while injured and 12 percent reported that they have sustained concussions and head injuries. Between 2008-2018 there were 470 youth sports-related fatalities. ³

[SB 638/HB836 Public Schools – Student Athletics – Requirements and Reports \(Elijah Gorham Act\)](#) is about ensuring that schools are in the best possible positions to respond to sport-related injuries.

This bill has several key components. As amended, it requires that each county board:

- have Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and Cold Water Immersion (CWIs) instruments on site, and within a short distance for each school-sponsored athletic practice and event
- require that coaching staff are trained on AED and CWI and are present at each school-sponsored practice and event

¹ <https://cnsmaryland.org/interactives/spring-2021/pushed-too-far/#lloyd>

² <https://www.atyourownrisk.org/studentathletes/>

³ <https://www.atyourownrisk.org/studentathletes/>

- require that coaching staff are trained twice a year on how to use an AED and facilitate CWI
- require that students are educated on the signs of concussion, heat stroke, brain injury and protocols to be able to identify signs of serious injury for themselves and their teammates
- develop venue-specific emergency action plans, share them with student athletes, families, and the school community and have coaching staff rehearse them

Too many students have suffered preventable injuries or death while participating under the supervision of trusted adults and officials. AEDs and CWIs can be the difference between life and death in many cases and venue-specific rehearsal of emergency action plans are critical.

The bill also requires that each county board of education report their emergency action plans to the Maryland State Department of Education and include: the number and location of AED and CWI equipment; a roster of the individuals who have been trained to use AED's and CWI heat acclimatization safety standards.

Creating and strengthening state policy will reduce the risk of injury or death. Emergency actions plans are life-saving and prepare schools and coaches to handle emergency situations and prevent catastrophic deaths. This legislation will equip students, staff, coaches, and others with the necessary tools to keep athletes safe on and off the field. I ask for your support of SB 638. Thank you.

SB0638-163624-01.pdf

Uploaded by: Shelly Hettleman

Position: FAV



SB0638/163624/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

07 MAR 22
19:17:49

BY: Senator Hettleman
(To be offered in the Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 638
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, strike “**Reports**” and substitute “**Emergency Action Plans**”; strike beginning with “requiring” in line 4 down through “year;” in line 6; in line 9, after “athletes;” insert “requiring the State Board of Education to develop and implement a certain educational program for student athletes; requiring student athletes in middle school and high school to attend the educational program; requiring middle schools and high schools to develop venue-specific emergency action plans for the operation and use of automatic external defibrillators, heat acclimatization, and coordination of care for other emergent injuries and severe weather for outdoor facilities;”; strike in their entirety lines 11 through 15, inclusive; and after line 20, insert:

“BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 7–450

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 1 and 2, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 24 on page 1 through line 23 on page 2, inclusive.

On page 2, strike in their entirety lines 25 and 26; in line 27, strike the brackets; in the same line, strike “**(B)**”; and in the same line, strike “(1)”.

On page 3, strike in their entirety lines 1 through 20, inclusive; in line 21, strike the brackets; in the same line, strike “(C)”; and after line 26, insert:

“(C) EACH MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL SHALL DEVELOP A VENUE-SPECIFIC EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN FOR THE OPERATION AND USE OF AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 7-450 OF THIS SUBTITLE.”.

On page 4, in line 20, after “athletes” insert “CONSISTENT WITH THE MODEL POLICY FOR PRESEASON-PRACTICE HEAT ACCLIMATIZATION GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT ATHLETES ESTABLISHED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION”.

On pages 4 and 5, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 24 on page 4 through line 8 on page 5, inclusive.

On page 5, after line 8, insert:

“(D) EACH HIGH SCHOOL SHALL DEVELOP A VENUE-SPECIFIC EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN FOR HEAT ACCLIMATIZATION THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 7-450 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

7-450.

(A) (1) THE STATE BOARD SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR STUDENT ATHLETES ON SIGNS OF HEAT STROKE, CONCUSSION, BRAIN INJURIES, AND ASSOCIATED PROTOCOLS.

(2) EACH STUDENT ATHLETE WHO PARTICIPATES IN AN ATHLETIC PROGRAM FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL OR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SHALL ATTEND AN

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(B) (1) EACH MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL SHALL DEVELOP A VENUE-SPECIFIC EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN FOR ALL ATHLETIC FACILITIES.

(2) A VENUE-SPECIFIC EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN INCLUDES:

(i) THE OPERATION AND USE OF AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-425 OF THIS SUBTITLE;

(ii) HEAT ACCLIMATIZATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-434 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

(iii) COORDINATION OF CARE FOR OTHER EMERGENT INJURIES, INCLUDING CERVICAL SPINAL INJURY, CONCUSSION AND CLOSED HEAD INJURY, MAJOR ORTHOPEDIC INJURIES, AND SEVERE WEATHER FOR OUTDOOR FACILITIES.

(C) A VENUE-SPECIFIC EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE:

(1) POSTED AT EACH ATHLETIC FACILITY AT THE SCHOOL;

(2) AVAILABLE ON THE SCHOOL'S WEBSITE FOR VIEWING BY A STUDENT ATHLETE'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR;

(3) DISTRIBUTED TO EACH MEMBER OF THE COACHING STAFF;
AND

(Over)

(4) REHEARSED IN PERSON AND INTERACTIVELY BY ALL OF THE COACHING STAFF OF EACH SPORT BEFORE EACH OF THEIR RESPECTIVE SEASONS.

(D) THE PROVISIONS OF A VENUE-SPECIFIC EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN FOR THE OPERATION AND USE OF AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS SHALL ENSURE THAT:

(1) AN AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR IS PROVIDED ON-SITE AND IS LOCATED AT OR WITHIN A 2-MINUTE WALK FROM AN ATHLETIC PRACTICE OR EVENT ON SCHOOL PROPERTY;

(2) AN AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR IS FREELY ACCESSIBLE DURING ALL SCHOOL FUNCTIONS;

(3) ALL MEMBERS OF THE COACHING STAFF ARE TRAINED IN THE OPERATION AND USE OF AN AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR; AND

(4) A TRAINED MEMBER OF THE COACHING STAFF IS PRESENT AT ALL ATHLETIC PRACTICES AND EVENTS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY.

(E) THE PROVISIONS OF A VENUE-SPECIFIC EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN FOR HEAT ACCLIMATIZATION SHALL:

(1) INCLUDE GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT ATHLETES CONSISTENT WITH THE MODEL POLICY FOR PRESEASON-PRACTICE HEAT ACCLIMATIZATION GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT ATHLETES ESTABLISHED UNDER § 7-434 OF THIS SUBTITLE;

(2) ENSURE THAT EACH SCHOOL IS PROPERLY PREPARED AND EQUIPPED TO INITIATE COLD WATER IMMERSION FOR THE TREATMENT OF EXERTIONAL HEAT STROKE;

(3) ENSURE THAT THE COOLING MODALITY IS:

(I) A STOCK TANK, INFLATABLE POOL, OR OTHER APPROPRIATE COOLING METHOD;

(II) SET UP AND AVAILABLE WHEN THE WET BULB GLOBE TEMPERATURE IS AT OR ABOVE 82 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT OR THE HEAT INDEX IS AT OR ABOVE 95 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT; AND

(III) READILY AVAILABLE TO STUDENT ATHLETES AT ALL ATHLETIC PRACTICES AND EVENTS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY;

(4) ENSURE THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE COACHING STAFF ARE TRAINED IN COLD WATER IMMERSION; AND

(5) ENSURE THAT A TRAINED MEMBER OF THE COACHING STAFF IS PRESENT AT ALL ATHLETIC PRACTICES AND EVENTS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY.

(F) (1) ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1 EACH YEAR, EACH MIDDLE SCHOOL SHALL REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD:

(I) THE NUMBER AND LOCATION OF EACH AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR AT THE SCHOOL; AND

(II) A LIST OF EACH INDIVIDUAL AT THE SCHOOL WHO:

1. HAS COMPLETED TRAINING ON THE LOCATION OF AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS AND THE DATES EACH TRAINING WAS COMPLETED; AND

2. REHEARSED THE VENUE-SPECIFIC EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN.

(2) ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1 EACH YEAR, EACH HIGH SCHOOL SHALL REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD:

(I) THE NUMBER AND LOCATION OF EACH AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR AT THE SCHOOL; AND

(II) A LIST OF EACH INDIVIDUAL AT THE SCHOOL WHO:

1. HAS COMPLETED TRAINING ON THE LOCATION OF AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS AND TRAINING ON HEAT ACCLIMATIZATION, AND THE DATES EACH TRAINING WAS COMPLETED; AND

2. REHEARSED THE VENUE-SPECIFIC EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN.

(G) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT THE INFORMATION EACH MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL SUBMITTED TO THE COUNTY BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION.”.

SB 638.High School Affiliated Teams and Heat Emerg

Uploaded by: John Woolums

Position: FWA

BILL: Senate Bill 638
TITLE: Public Schools - Student Athletics - Requirements and Reports
(Elijah Gorham Act)
POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS
DATE: March 8, 2022
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) supports Senate Bill 638, with amendments to modify the proposed emergency equipment requirements.

First, MABE supports the provisions of the bill requiring local school systems to report on the relationships and between public high schools and affiliated sports teams. MABE believes these reporting procedures will provide greater transparency and improve accountability for all sports activities in any way affiliated with a public high school. Students, families, and school administrators will benefit from the additional scrutiny facilitated by this legislation.

In particular, Maryland places a high priority on establishing and maintaining a statewide interscholastic athletic system that assures that sports activities are a part of and contribute toward the entire educational program. To be clear, interscholastic sports programs in Maryland's public schools are generally conducted in accordance with the standards developed by the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSA) and the regulations adopted by the State Board of Education. Since 1991, interscholastic sports in Maryland have operated in accordance with the "Master Agreement Outlining the Interscholastic Structure for Public Schools in Maryland," which establishes the responsibilities of MPSSA, MSDE, and local school systems. Local boards of education believe that this system of regulations and oversight is working well. However, many other private sports clubs and entities operate high school sports programs that are affiliated with a public high school. Therefore, MABE supports Senate Bill 638 to complement the already rigorous governance and accountability system for high school interscholastic sports.

MABE is requesting several amendments to eliminate or modify the scope of mandated administrative procedures, reporting requirements, equipment procurement, and staff training provisions. MABE requests the removal of proposed mandated reporting of the names of school personnel trained in the use of defibrillators or in heat acclimatization as an unnecessarily prescriptive reporting requirement relating to a continuously changing roster of coaches and other staff. MABE requests removal of the proposed mandate that a stock tank or inflatable pool be present at all interscholastic athletic practices and events as not well-suited as one-size-fits-all approach for all types of sports practices and events. In addition, MABE does not believe there is sufficient time to ensure compliance with the new staff training requirements or mandate to develop and distribute athletic emergency plans by the beginning of the 2022 school year. Therefore, MABE requests amendments to extend any new staffing or training being mandated to the 2023-2024 school year.

For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 638 with the amendments described above.

Robinson - letter of support SB 0638.pdf

Uploaded by: William Robinson

Position: FWA



*Gina Palermo, President
Jean Perez, Vice President
Ashley Holmes, Secretary
Amber Kelso, Treasurer*

March 6, 2022

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: SUPPORT SB 0638 – Public Schools – Student Athletics – Requirements and Reports
(Elijah Gorham Act)**

Honorable Chair Pinsky:

My name is Wes Robinson. As Past President, I am writing you on behalf of the Maryland Athletic Trainers' Association, representing over 600 certified athletic trainers throughout the state of Maryland. We urge you to support SB 0638.

Athletic training encompasses the prevention, examination, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions. Athletic Trainers are experts in the field of sport safety and we are happy to lend our endorsement to this legislation as it hits upon a key component of our advocacy – athlete safety with a focus on prevention.

The MATA is excited that the bill sponsors are willing to work on and accept our recommendations to further strengthen the language around AED access and ensure venue specific EAPs.

As Mike Tyson once told us, everyone has a plan until they get punched in the face. Emergency situations are never easy to deal with. Having a well thought out plan is only the first step. If that plan is not exact, distributed, posted on site and rehearsed by everyone involved, it is destined to fail.

Even schools fortunate enough to have an Athletic Trainer are at risk. One Athletic Trainer at a high school cannot provide peak care in a crisis situation by themselves. While that Athletic Trainer is performing CPR, who is calling 911? Who is getting the AED? Who is unlocking the gate to allow the ambulance access to the field? All coaches need to be well versed in the Emergency Action Plan (EAP). As with any child, it takes the whole village.

Maryland Athletic Trainer's Association

I have heard from too many of my colleagues in the state, that they have an AED at their school, but they have no access to it. It is locked in the nurse's office. They are not allowed to take it out to the fields. It is not available after school hours.

This past year at Loyola Blakefield, a lacrosse player was struck in the chest and collapsed during a game. The Athletic Trainer had an AED on the sideline and the player was shocked in less than 2 minutes from impact. That young man is alive today because of the quick actions of the sports medicine team and because the AED was onsite and available. Had it been locked in the nurse's office, he would not have survived. Every school in Maryland and every athlete in Maryland should have that access to an AED. Every athlete should have the freedom to play the sport they love and be safe while doing so.

As ATs we often get to work the sideline and enjoy the excitement of sports. Unfortunately, we also bear witness to the tragedy of sport, the unnecessary and preventable death of a student-athlete that we have been charged to care for. It is an experience no Athletic Trainer can fully prepare for and one that no parent should have to endure. Our organization's goal and what has become my personal mission, is to ensure we legislate as much safety as possible. We must take every step available to avoid the human error and poor planning that can lead to loss of life and disability

The MATA urges you to move this legislation forward and support AED and Cold Water Immersion (CWI) access and mandate the implementation and rehearsal of venue specific emergency actions plans. Ensure the safety of all Maryland athletes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wes Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thank you for your time.

Wes Robinson, ATC PT
Past - President
Maryland Athletic Trainers' Association

SB 638 - MPSSAA - Public Schools - Student Athlete

Uploaded by: Ary Amerikaner

Position: INFO

ORGANIZED 1946



TELEPHONE: (410) 767-0376
FAX: (410) 333-3111

MEMBER OF THE
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
STATE HIGH SCHOOL
ASSOCIATIONS

R. ANDREW WARNER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

BILL:	Senate Bill 638	DATE:	March 8, 2022
SUBJECT:	Public Schools – Student Athletics – Requirements and Reports (Elijah Gorman Act)	COMMITTEE:	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
POSITION:	Information Only		
CONTACT:	R. Andrew Warner 410-767-0376 robert.warner1@maryland.gov		

EXPLANATION:

The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) is providing information for consideration regarding Senate Bill 638 – Public Schools – Student Athletes – Requirements and Emergency Action Plan (Elijah Gorman Act), which specifies criteria as it relates to education, training, and other requirements related to heat acclimatization and emergency action plans. The MPSSAA appreciates the sponsor’s sharing of proposed amendments. This letter responds to SB 638 as we understand it to be amended and advises the committee to consider two specific concerns related to SB 638.

DEVELOPMENT OF AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The MPSSAA is committed to safeguarding the athletic experiences of all students. The amendments to Senate Bill 638 would call for the Maryland State Board of Education to develop and implement an educational program for student-athletes on the signs of heat stroke, concussion, brain injuries, and associated protocols. Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Maryland State Department of Education and the 24 local educational agencies, the MPSSAA is charged with the development of the programs that safeguard the physical, mental, and moral welfare of high school students. For over 76 years, this MOU has provided for the MPSSAA to administer safe and meaningful participation opportunities within state and national health standards to student participants annually.

The MPSSAA recommends that MPSSAA Medical Advisory Committee, which is comprised of Orthopedist, Pediatricians, Athletic Trainers, Physical Therapists, Neurologists, Primary Care Physicians, School Nurses, and Local School System Athletic Administrators, as being best served to **develop** any required educational materials. Each local school system, who bears the responsibility of the day-to-day administration of the education of their students, is best served to **implement and deliver** educational materials as developed by the MPSSAA to their student participants.

ANNUAL TRAINING REQUIRMENTS

Senate Bill 638 calls for each member of the coaching staff to attend an interactive training twice each year on automated external defibrillators, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and heat acclimatization. This language is contrary to the best practices by The American Red Cross and American Heart Association, who certify training in automated external defibrillators and cardiopulmonary resuscitation every two years. Current requirements in training for head injuries is every two years as detailed in [COMAR 13A.06.08](#) *Head Injuries and Concussions in Extracurricular Athletic Events*.

The retention of highly qualified athletic administrators is a challenge for many local school systems because of the continuous increase in requirements to administer a school-wide athletic department in addition to their daily instruction and educational duties. The MPSSAA recommends Senate Bill 638 be further amended that any training requirements be aligned with national standards of every two years.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR CONSIDERTATION

Senate Bill 638 calls for each middle and high school to have an automated external defibrillator (AED) that is within a 2-minute walk from an athletic practice or event on school property. School facilities are either large acre campuses or often use alternative community parks and facilities. Senate Bill 638 will require local school systems to purchase portable AED devices to be available with every high school team actively participating in order to meet the requirements of the bill. At 200 member schools and approximately 10 high school programs operating at a time, upwards of 2,000 portable AED devices may need to be purchased, properly stored, and actively serviced. The MPSSAA advises that the most crucial part of any AED policy is that they are readily available in an unlocked location for immediate deployment to any practice or contest facility.

Currently, public schools and coaches are required to have someone trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator at every practice and contest, heat and hydration requirements, concussion management and training requirements, a 15-hour care and prevention course requirement to coach high school athletics, and a refresher every five years in care and prevention. The Maryland Department of Education and the MPSSAA currently require sign-off sheets from student-athletes on concussions and brain injuries in compliance with [COMAR 13A.06.08.05B](#), a required information sign-off sheet for student athletes related to [Sudden Cardiac Arrest](#), and provides a [guidance book on heat acclimation](#) to all member schools. In addition, the MPSSAA has secured Wet Bulb Globe Thermometer readers for all 200 MPSSAA member high schools through grant funding by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

The MPSSAA respectfully requests that you consider this information as you deliberate **Senate Bill 836**. Please contact R. Andrew Warner, at 410-767-0376, or robert.warner1@maryland.gov, for any additional information.