

03/03/2022

To whom it may concern,

My name is Nicole LaPoint and I have been a resident of Prince George's county for 24 years. I have two kids age 14 and 11 and I oppose bill HB 1057. I hear the benefits that a park and rec service would have on the community and I agree but we already have that service through MNCPPC and I see no reason to try to start over. I live on the southern side of the county which often misses out on many of the opportunities offered to the county. Thanks to MNCPPC my children over the years have had numerous opportunities afforded to them all in my budget. Starting as a teen mom that budget sometimes was close to nothing, MNCPPC was a resource that let my children have great experiences while I succeeded where many teen moms have not becoming self sufficient, a home owner and solidly middle class.

My children attended before and aftercare through MNCPPC for years, one of only two care options that serviced our rural school and the only affordable option. This is the only reason I was able to find gainful employment after my degree. My children loved going their and all the activities that were offered to them. My youngest daughter participated in prk through MNCPPC at a proportional rate to my income, prk would have been inaccessible to me otherwise. My oldest who is currently a freshman on the 1a/2a/3a varsity championship basketball team; found her love of basketball in the MNCPPC peewee league and continued playing with them, going to basketball camps, skills training, and developing her skills in the many gyms they have. At a cost of \$60 per season for team and free use of the gym for minors it was incomparable to the cost of the boys and girls club which starts at \$250 a season. Thanks to MNCPPC my children have also been exposed to many activities including dance, soccer, field trips and excursions, swimming lessons, sewing classes, art classes, summer camps, educational opportunities, various holiday activities, and a strong sense of community involvement. They consistently run into employees of MNCPPC over the various activities at different places who remember them and are invested in their development and growth. The summer playground program was another affordable lifesaver for summers while I work when the cost of childcare is so high.

MNCPPC has been an invaluable part of our everyday life and it would be a huge mistake to alter or take over this organization that already helps so many in the County.

Very respectfully,
Nicole LaPoint