

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF
MARTIN MCNAIR
FOUNDER
THE JORDAN MCNAIR FOUNDATION**

**IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATIVE BILL HB 836
ELIJAH GORHAM ACT**

MARCH 3, 2022

Hello, my name is Martin McNair. I am the father of Jordan McNair and the Founder of The Jordan McNair Foundation. I am here to provide oral testimony in support of **House Bill 836 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.

The Jordan McNair Foundation has always found it imperative to get legislation passed in order to uphold accountability among leadership within athletic organizations so that student athletes can stay safe. Over the past 2-3 years, high school student athletes have been impacted by heat-related illness and injury and cardiac arrest more than student athletes at other levels of play.

While The Jordan McNair Foundation is primarily known for educating about heat-related illness and injury, an intricate part of our mission is to promote overall player safety. Many parents contact the Foundation regarding student athlete safety after the loss of their loved one who was also a student athlete.

I am here today to impress upon each legislative representative the importance to tighten the reigns 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 early April before Spring and Summer practices - which is peak season for incidents and again in August before Fall sports practices and games begin.

The names of high school student athletes are included with this testimony that have been affected like my son Jordan McNair and most recently, Elijah Gorham – a high school football player who died in October 2021 in Baltimore City.

On behalf of The Jordan McNair Foundation, Elijah Gorham's family, parents and student athletes across the State of Maryland, I strongly urge you to pass House Bill 836 in order to promote player safety and help save the lives of student athletes.