



Town of Berwyn Heights

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March 7, 2023
Senator Guy Guzzone
Chairman, Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Re: Senate Bill 818 – Support

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express our support for Senate Bill 818 (House Bill 313), Establishing the Public School Stadium Grant program.

Incorporated in 1896, the Town of Berwyn Heights is the sixth oldest municipality in Prince George's County, Maryland. Our nearly 3,300 residents live in 1,050 single family homes on 0.65 square miles within the Capital Beltway. Our students are assigned to Berwyn Heights Elementary School, Greenbelt Middle School and Parkdale High School.

We believe physical activity and participating in sports is an important element in helping students across the state recover from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. The link between mental health and the benefit of sports is well-known. I am sure there are many towns like ours that enthusiastically support their local Boys and Girls Club to model and encourage the development of healthy social behaviors.

However, parents have noticed that playing at some locations can be difficult. The field at Parkdale High School is in terrible shape, and apparently there is a 6-inch pipe sticking up out of the ground that the athletes have had to learn to avoid.

We should be making it as easy as possible to access and use these resources, and providing grants to county boards for major renovation or replacement of stadiums for public high schools is a good start. For this reason, I respectfully request a favorable report on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Jodie Kulpa-Eddy,
Mayor, Town of Berwyn Heights