

MARLON AMPREY
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Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Economic Matters Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 6th, 2023

**Testimony of Delegate Marlon Amprey in support of HB 1090 Public High Schools -
Student Athletes - Compensation for Name, Image, and Likeness**

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

In July 2021, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) approved a new policy that allows all D1, D2, and D3 student athletes to receive compensation for use of their name, image, and likeness (NIL). This change at the higher institution level, which has given collegiate student athletes all over the country the authority to make their own decisions regarding use of their NIL, is a change that should follow at the high school level as well. I am introducing **House Bill 1090** for this purpose, to allow high school student athletes in Maryland to gain control over and receive compensation for the use of their NIL as they see fit.

House Bill 1090 allows students who participate in interscholastic athletics at any public high school in Maryland to earn compensation for the use of their NIL. No school administration, high school athletic association, or other organization with authority over high school athletics may prevent a student from such an undertaking, and also may not bar them from participating in an athletic program as a result of earning compensation.

NIL compensation at the high school level is not unheard of. As of last November, at least 19 states have enacted NIL laws for high school student athletes, the benefits of which are now being reaped by the student athletes and their families that reside in these states. Many of these talented athletes pour hours upon hours of time, effort, and dedication into training. Allowing them to receive compensation for use of their NIL gives them the opportunity to invest in their future from an early age and receive compensation for the hard sweat and work they have put into honing their craft.

NIL is not simply a money-making endeavor; on the contrary, for many student athletes and their families, it is the opportunity to experience economic stability for the first time in their lives. Many student athletes come from underprivileged backgrounds and low-income families that have struggled to make ends meet. No reason exists that is strong enough to deprive these student athletes and their families of the opportunity to be properly compensated for a valid economic opportunity. These student athletes work hard to perform well and be recognized, and they deserve to be rewarded for their tireless efforts.

For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on House Bill 1090.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marlon Amprey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a distinct "A".

Delegate Marlon Amprey
40th Legislative District of Maryland