

HB0450_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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Richard Keith Kaplowitz
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TESTIMONY ON HB#/0450 - FAVORABLE

State Department of Education - Soccer Opportunities Program - Establishment

TO: Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0450 State Department of Education - Soccer Opportunities Program - Establishment

As a former soccer referee for 31 years from 1989-2019 I have seen first hand the incredible benefits participation in soccer offers to its participants. The game of soccer is, by its nature, a tool to build character. It requires continual evaluation of rapidly occurring situations and facilitates quick decision making in reaction to the situation. It requires teamwork to create positive outcomes for actions taken together.

Soccer is also, by its nature, an aerobic sport in which constant movement - walking, jogging and running are part and parcel of its conduct. It focuses hand and eye and feet and body coordination both when in possession of the ball or attempting to gain that possession. A great team has constant communication among its members; soccer is best when the team is communicating and working towards shared goals.

The positive values of soccer, including creating green space in communities to have soccer fields, make this a valuable program for which funding must be secured, The growth of it participants in becoming part of a team in a sport with so many positive values will benefit our society. All of us together will have better people from the better players given these opportunities to become players and coaches and referees for this game.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#0450.