



**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB0971: Public Schools - Interscholastic Athletics - Student Eligibility Waiver  
and School Classification**

Ways and Means

February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024: 1:00 PM

Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair, and members of the Ways and Means Committee, I am Delegate Brooke Grossman, and I am here to testify on behalf of HB971. HB971 is enabling legislation that would allow students attending magnet schools to participate in sports programs at their original zoned high school. The bill authorizes local Boards of Education to waive certain eligibility requirements for students to participate in interscholastic athletics programs at their zoned high school while enrolled in a magnet high school. For example, students in my district who currently attend Barbara Ingram School for the Arts (BISFA) are unable to participate in sports programs at their home school. These students are passionate about pursuing their interests in the arts, which should not preclude them from participating in athletic programs. This authorization to local school districts would ensure that students can represent their “home” schools when participating in sporting competitions. Furthermore, a school like BISFA would be unable to develop its own interscholastic athletics program due to the feasibility of securing athletic resources, the size of the school, and the interest amongst the student population. Participation in athletic programs can be a benefit to a student’s mental and physical health and promote team building and leadership skills. All students should have the opportunity to participate in sports and authorizing the local school boards to waive a student’s eligibility would be the most practical policy solution.

Therefore, **I urge a favorable report on HB0971.**