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March 5, 2025

The Honorable Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary Chair

Ways and Means Committee

Taylor House Office Building, Room 130

6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 1272 – Youth Sport Safety Advisory Commission- SUPPORT

Dear Chair Atterbeary,

The American Physical Therapy Association Maryland is writing to register our support of House Bill 1272.

This bill establishes a Youth Sports Safety Advisory Commission, specifies membership on the commission, and requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to staff the commission. Commission members are not entitled to receive compensation but may receive reimbursement under standard State travel regulations.

The commission must meet at least twice each year and must:

- study evidence-based policies and practices for maximizing safety for youth athletes at different age levels, with a concentration on those under the age of 15, and stages of brain development based on national research;
- seek input from nationally recognized youth sports oversight organizations;
- study ways to reduce injury risk levels to youth athletes at different ages; and
- make recommendations for implementation of evidence-based best practices for minimizing injury risks for youth athletes.

Children and youth injuries are unlike adults' because their biomechanics are different. Kids are still growing physically, cognitively, and emotionally. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine, youth sport related injuries are on the rise. Therefore, it is vital that states look to legislation to improve health care for young athletes, maximize safety and look to ways to reduce injury, and return to play

For the reasons noted above we ask for a favorable report on House Bill 1272.

Sincerely,

Roy Film

Roy Film, PT, DPT, MPT

President, APTA Maryland