

Maryland Ways and Means Committee

RE: HB1185 Homeschool Students Right to Play

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of two homeschool (high school level) children. One of my children is an avid baseball player who is losing opportunities to participate in the sport he loves with his friends and teammates he previously played with during his younger years in the local recreational programs (rec programs become less available as a child enters this age/grade level). Additionally, passing this bill may spark an interest in my other child to play a sport with friends. As tax paying citizens, this opportunity should be a given in the State of Maryland, United States of America. The children (as a whole) are the ones who are losing. They are losing additional connection with peers in the extra-curricular level, physical activity, team building, etc... With the freedom to educate our children in the means we deem fit as parents, allow us the opportunity to create a positive extra-curricular space.

While some homeschool children may choose to not participate in public school sports, allow the children who want to participate to do so. Allow them play with their neighbors and friends. Allow them the opportunity instead of just "no" with no valid reasoning.

This would create a huge impact on the lives of so many.

Respectfully

Jillian L. Gatcha Zdobysz