

**3/3/2025**

**HB1272**



**TESTIMONY OFFERED ON BEHALF OF  
SYZMIK**

**IN SUPPORT OF:  
HB1272 – Youth Sports Safety Advisory Commission**

**Before:  
House Ways and Means Committee  
Hearing: 3/5/2025 at 1:00 PM**

**SYZMIK**, a Maryland-based product development and engineering firm specializing in sports safety and protective headgear, **SUPPORTS House Bill 1272 – Youth Sports Safety Advisory Commission.**

For over 10-years with a \$3.5 million investment in research, **SYZMIK** has pushed the limits of materials, science and design to make products that provide innovation in sports for “head health” for player safety, protection, and performance. **SYZMIK** retained Dr. Nate Dau, principal engineer and consultant with Biocore, to conduct this ground-breaking research on protective equipment for sports and military applications in a laboratory environment for deployment in the field. Goals of the research included: (1) providing data and results to help improve amateur sports, (2) deploying data research to continue to improve headgear, and (3) providing education to the sports community to help understand more about head impacts for player safety. This research has led **SYZMIK** to produce innovative and breakthrough headgear for NCAA athletes. The research results also set certain sports equipment standards that improve safety and performance for athletes and soldiers.

**HB1272** establishes a **Youth Sports Safety Advisory Commission** to study and make recommendations to minimize risk and maximize safety for youth athletes and specifies Commission membership. By December 31, 2026, the Commission must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, Maryland State Board of Education, MD Department of Health, and the General Assembly. The bill takes effect October 1, 2025, and sunsets on September 30, 2030.

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**SYZMIK** believes that this legislation is **timely, crucial and much needed** to create an investigative Commission to study and make recommendation on ways and means to **reduce injury and concussion risks to youth athletes at different ages**.

According to a recent report by Johns Hopkins Medicine, there are over 30 million children and teens in the US that participate in some form of organized sports and more than 3.5 million injuries occur each year. CDC reports that 1.9 million were treated in 2002. These numbers are growing. Almost one third of all injuries incurred in childhood are sports-related injuries. Sports and recreational activities contribute to approximately twenty-one percent (21%) of all traumatic brain injuries among American children. Over 775,000 children, ages 14 and younger, are treated in hospital ERs for sports-related injuries each year. There were 50 sports related deaths of young athletes in the US in 2015, 25 in 2014 and 32 in 2013.

It is for these reasons that **SYZMIK** respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE REPORT on HB1272**. Please feel free to contact me directly on **410-935-6708** should you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ed Soth*

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