



**TESTIMONY OFFERED ON BEHALF OF
SYZMIK**

**IN SUPPORT OF:
HB1393 – Youth Sports Programs - Registrations, Personnel and Policy**

**Before:
House Ways and Means Committee
Hearing: 3/3/2025 at 11:00 AM**

SYZMIK, a Maryland-based product development and engineering firm specializing in sports safety and protective headgear, **SUPPORTS House Bill 1393 – Youth Sports Programs - Registrations, Personnel, and Policy.**

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.

HB1393 requires annual registration and training of “youth sports program personnel,” including volunteers who participate in a youth sports program. A youth sports program must provide certain health and safety information to each parent or guardian who registers a youth athlete and requires them to submit a signed acknowledgment of receipt of this information. The bill generally applies to youth sports programs below the high school level of play. The definition of

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“**concussion**” under current law is altered to include certain brain injuries resulting from any type of direct or indirect hit to the head or body. The definition of a youth athlete is expanded from public education to include a youth athlete who participates in a youth sports program at a private school facility. The bill takes effect on October 1, 2025.

SYZMIK believes that this legislation is **timely, crucial and much needed** to create, maintain and update a registry of Youth Sports Programs along with other very important policy issues. Of extreme importance is the expansion of the definition of **“Concussion”** to apply to any type of direct or indirect hit to the head or body and expanding those provisions applicable to a private school facility.

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 HB1393**. Please feel free to contact me directly on **410-935-6708** should you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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