

DEL. DANA JONES, DISTRICT 30A
President

DEL. MICHELE GUYTON, DISTRICT 42B
1st Vice-President

DEL. JENNIFER WHITE HOLLAND, DISTRICT 10
2nd Vice-President

DEL. SARAH WOLEK, DISTRICT 16
Secretary



DEL. LINDA FOLEY, DISTRICT 15
Treasurer

DEL. KAREN R. TOLES, DISTRICT 25
Parliamentarian

DEL. JACQUELINE T. ADDISON, DISTRICT 45
At Large

DEL. KYM TAYLOR, DISTRICT 23
At Large

WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND
THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

March 5, 2025

To: Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Vice Chair
Ways and Means Committee

The Maryland Women's Caucus is proud to express our unanimous support for **HB1483: Public Schools - High School Sports Officiating Services - Procurement Requirements**. This important legislation takes a necessary step toward ensuring fairness and equity in the procurement of officiating services for high school sports, helping to eliminate disparities between boys' and girls' sports and reinforcing the principles of gender equity in athletics.

This bill is crucial for ensuring that women and girls have equal opportunities to compete and excel in high school sports. Women and girls continue to face systemic disparities in athletics, from funding and resources to access to coaching and training opportunities. Officiating is a critical component of the sporting experience, and this legislation ensures that officiating standards are consistent across both boys' and girls' sports, thus providing a fair and equitable environment for female athletes.

By establishing specific procurement requirements for officiating services for both boys' and girls' sports, HB1483 directly addresses the inequities that often leave girls' sports with fewer qualified or underpaid officials. This disparity not only impacts the quality of play but also sends a message about the value of women's athletics.

The bill also has a profound impact on female officials in Maryland, who are often underrepresented in sports officiating roles. By setting up guidelines that encourage equal treatment in the hiring and assignment of officials, HB1483 creates opportunities for women to gain recognition, employment, and career advancement within the field of officiating. By promoting women in these roles, we increase female representation in leadership positions within the sports industry, providing young girls with powerful role models to look up to and aspire toward.

For these reasons, the Maryland Women's Caucus urges the Ways and Means Committee to issue a favorable report on HB1483. Thank you for your time and consideration, and for your commitment to fairness and equity in Maryland's high school sports programs.