

# **TESTIMONY - HB1097 - Public High Schools - Sports**

Uploaded by: Denise Denise

Position: FAV

DENISE G. ROBERTS  
Legislative District 25  
Prince George's County

Economic Matters Committee

*Subcommittees*

Banking, Consumer Protection,  
and Commercial Law

Business Regulation

Economic Development



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 204  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3707  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3707  
Denise.Roberts@house.maryland.gov

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB1097 - Public High Schools - Sports Injury Recordkeeping and Reporting  
– Requirements  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
April 7, 2026**

Mr. Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1097, Public High Schools – Sports Injury Recordkeeping and Reporting – Requirements. For the record, I am Delegate Roberts, and this bill comes from a basic, common sense place: if our kids are getting hurt playing school sports, we should know when it happens, how it happens, and what we’re doing about it.

HB1097 sets up a simple, statewide framework so every public high school keeps a standardized log of sports injuries. Whenever a student is hurt in a school sponsored practice, game, or conditioning session, the school records the date and time, the sport, a general description of the injury and body part, whether it happened in practice or competition, whether the student was taken out and for how long, whether medical care was given or recommended, who documented it, and, if known, when the student was cleared to return. That information has to be entered within 24 hours by a coach, athletic trainer, nurse, or other designated staff, the logs are kept for at least five years, and local systems and MSDE can review them for safety and compliance.

Once a year, starting July 1, 2027, each local school system will send MSDE an aggregated report of high school athletic injuries from the previous school year—no names, no student identifying details, and fully compliant with FERPA and other privacy laws. MSDE, working with the Department of Health and MPSSAA, can set up the exact forms and a simple way to submit the data, using tools schools already understand—a secure web portal, a standard spreadsheet upload, or a basic online form. This is no heavier lift than the centralized systems we already use for immunizations and student information; we are not asking schools to build a hospital grade medical record system.

We’ve address concerns from MPSSAA and MATA about non medical staff entering “medical” data, and I want to be clear: this bill doesn’t ask coaches to play doctor. A tiered approach fits neatly under HB1097—Tier 1 is the coach or staff member logging simple, objective facts (an injury happened, in this sport, on this date, and the student was or wasn’t removed from play), and Tier 2 is the athletic trainer or nurse, where available, adding diagnosis, treatment, and clearance. That keeps coaches in their lane,

reduces liability, protects privacy, and still gives us consistent, statewide information so that a kid at a small, under resourced school is not invisible just because there's no trainer on the sideline.

Right now, some schools do an excellent job tracking injuries, and some do almost nothing. That means some kids—and let's be honest, often the ones in less resourced communities—fall through the cracks. We also know from research that girls and young women, and many Black and Brown student athletes, face higher risks in certain sports and can experience delayed care or underreporting, but Maryland doesn't have good, comparable data to see where that is happening in our own high schools. HB1097 doesn't micromanage coaches or doctors; it simply gives us the basic facts we need to target trainers, education, equipment, and policy changes where they will actually prevent harm.

At the end of the day, this bill is about stewardship. Our kids pour their hearts out for those school colors; the least we can do is pay attention when they get hurt and learn from it so the next kid is safer. HB1097 is modest, practical, and fair, and it treats every student athlete in Maryland like they matter enough to count. I respectfully ask for a favorable report on House Bill 1097.

**Mario\_Roberts\_HB1097\_Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mario Roberts

Position: FAV

The Honorable Jheanelle Wilkins  
Chair, Ways and Means Committee  
House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street, Room 130  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: Support for HB 1097 – Public High Schools – Sports Injury Recordkeeping and Reporting – Requirements**

Dear Chair Wilkins,

My name is Mario A. Roberts. I have testified before this body previously regarding high school athletics and injuries—specifically football, in my case. Today, I am again testifying in support of **HB 1097 – Public High Schools – Sports Injury Recordkeeping and Reporting – Requirements**.

**My life today is what happens when injuries go untracked.**

When my injury occurred in 1985, it was a time much different than today. We did not have video cameras at every game. In fact, the game in which I was injured was scheduled to be videotaped, but there was a light rain outside and there was no solution or plan in place for that. At the time, games being recorded was sporadic at best, regardless of the weather.

We also had absolutely **no injury recordkeeping**. Had injury records been required, I would have never played in the game that led to my catastrophic neck injury—an injury that left me paralyzed for much of my life. As I write this today, I am a bedridden quadriplegic as a result of that injury.

It was a game I should never have played in because I had severely injured my knee in the game prior. In that previous game, I had torn my knee up badly. However, I was taught to be a warrior, not a whiner. So I did my best to hide my injury so that I could continue to play. I knew that if my coaches had been tracking injuries, they would have kept me out of games until it healed. I used the lack of tracking to hide my knee injury. In the next game, I severed my C6 vertebrae and became a quadriplegic, paralyzed for life.

At the time, I was playing in DC Public Schools. The failure to track injuries cost them dearly. DC ultimately paid me the largest out-of-court settlement to a resident in its history because of that accident. As a result, they immediately made crucial changes: tracking injuries, ensuring proper equipment, having trained personnel present, and requiring ambulances at football games. **My injury became the gateway for those changes.**

**Your body has the power today to help ensure there is never another Mario A. Roberts—a quadriplegic because a student athlete’s injuries went untracked.**

**I respectfully urge the committee to give HB 1097 – Public High Schools – Sports Injury Recordkeeping and Reporting – Requirements a favorable report so that no other student athlete has to become the next version of me.**

Thank you immensely for hearing my testimony and for your consideration of this legislation.

Respectfully,

Mario A. Roberts

Beltsville Resident

Former DC Public Schools Student-Athlete

# **HB 1097\_ Public High Schools - Sports Injury Reco**

Uploaded by: Trudy Tibbals

Position: FAV

**HB 1097:** Public High Schools - Sports Injury Recordkeeping and Reporting - Requirements: Please vote to **SUPPORT this BIPARTISAN bill.**

Dear Education, Energy & the Environment Committee:

I am writing to respectfully **support HB 1097**, the bipartisan bill concerning *Public High Schools – Sports Injury Recordkeeping and Reporting – Requirements*.

**Student-athlete safety must always be a top priority.** Requiring consistent recordkeeping and reporting of sports-related injuries is a practical and responsible step toward improving transparency, identifying trends, and strengthening injury prevention efforts across Maryland’s high schools.

Accurate data collection allows schools, athletic directors, medical professionals, and policymakers to better understand the frequency and nature of injuries—particularly serious concerns such as concussions and heat-related illnesses. **With reliable information, schools can implement evidence-based safety protocols, improve training standards, and ensure appropriate medical follow-up for injured students.**

This legislation also promotes accountability and consistency statewide. Clear reporting requirements help ensure that injury data is not overlooked or inconsistently tracked, and that parents have confidence their children’s health is being taken seriously.

**As a bipartisan measure, HB 1097 reflects a shared commitment to protecting student-athletes while maintaining strong extracurricular athletic programs.** Supporting student participation in sports and safeguarding their well-being are complementary goals.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **support HB 1097**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals

# **MATA Testimony**

Uploaded by: Jane McClean

Position: FWA



**Bill:** HB 1097-Public High Schools - Sports Injury Recordkeeping and Reporting - Requirements

**Date:** March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Position:** Favorable with Amendments

**Contact:** Jane McClean, [MATAGovernmentAffairs@gmail.com](mailto:MATAGovernmentAffairs@gmail.com)

Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and the Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Athletic Trainers' Association (MATA) to express our support with amendments for House Bill 1097. Ensuring accurate documentation and reporting of sports-related injuries is an important step toward improving student-athlete safety and showing how important it is for all student-athletes to have access to athletic trainers.

By implementing a standardized statewide reporting system for injuries sustained during school athletic activities, HB1097 will help policymakers and educators better understand patterns of injuries, identify high-risk activities, and implement evidence-based safety measures. Collecting reliable data is essential for developing policies that protect student-athletes while preserving the many benefits of school sports.

While MATA strongly supports this legislation, we respectfully request consideration of the following discussion points and an amendment to include MATA in the collaborative efforts, recognizing athletic trainers' key role in injury prevention, management, and return-to-play decisions.

**Items to consider:**

1. The injury log must be standardized across all public schools to ensure that collected data can be analyzed.
2. The injury log must be editable to ensure it can adjust as injury diagnosis change and duration of removal is known.
3. Should there be an end date or report out date to legislation on data collected?

**Recommended Amendment**

**(G) THE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND, THE MARYLAND PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, AND THE MARYLAND ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION MAY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS AND STANDARDIZED REPORTING FORMS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.**

I am always happy to any questions that may arise.

Jane (Miraglia) McClean, MSHA LAT, ATC, CEIS  
MATA Government Affairs Committee Chair



**HB1097/423728/1**

BY: Ways and Means Committee

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 1097

(First Reading File Bill)

On page 2, in line 12, after "RECOMMENDED;" insert "AND"; and strike beginning with the semicolon in line 13 down through "ACTIVITY" in line 15.

On page 3, in line 6, after "HEALTH" insert ", THE MARYLAND ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION,".