

RIGHT TO PLAY: HB 1528

Simple reasons to vote favorably:

- It improves community relations.
- Some students cannot attend public school for ADVANCED academic talent or other IEP/academic reasons where their zoned school cannot meet their needs. Homeschooling parents save the State of Maryland huge amounts of money by homeschooling students needing educational support.
- Over 30 other states in our country manage to make the homeschooling right-to-play program work without there being any further oversight for teachers or homeschooling families. All over homeschooling internet sites, parents **discourage** families from moving to Maryland if they want their homeschooling students to participate in extracurricular activities. This obviously hurts the economy.
- Some students post-pandemic found that schooling at home fit best for them academically. They shouldn't have to miss out on their extracurriculars because of their personal academic success story.
- Military families moving from state to state with different homeschooling right-to-play laws may miss out on the remainder of the high school years if the military moves that family to Maryland. Horribly unjust.
- Funds are already allocated for the program via the huge budget for the state of Maryland. Homeschoolers can help fill in the blanks for programs such as band, math clubs, sports teams, etc that fail to be provided for the current public school students because of lack of participation. (Example, Howard High School didn't have a Varsity Football team years back) The team has team insurance. The club has club funding (or fundraising). No money will be lost by including homeschoolers.
- Pandemic EBT benefits were sent out to our homeschooled students. Therefore, there IS a way for our students to be considered, particularly because the health reasons to avoid public school were established during the pandemic. Some students are able to participate in a smaller club, a team and the like because they are at risk for exposure to upwards of 600 students per day if there during the regular school day because they opted to homeschool for health safety.
- Talented underprivileged students are discriminated against with the statement "well, they can play at a private school".
- Learning disabled students (whose needs are often NOT met in public school) are discriminated against with the statement "well, if he/she wants to play, he/she will just have to enroll in public school."

Ideas for compromise if necessary:

- Homeschool students can give an *appeal to play* if public school sports teams, clubs, etc are not filling roster spots.
- Homeschool students can be *limited* to a certain number per school/team/county
- Each COUNTY Superintendent gets to approve the bill rather than a statewide ruling
- Homeschooling students need to appeal directly to their county superintendent's office or high school administrator for permission to try out for an extracurricular.

- Homeschooling parents registered with their county may help coach or assistant coach or offer clubs that no public school teacher wants to lead.
- Homeschoolers may ONLY participate in the extracurriculars of their specifically zoned/districted schools UNLESS another school in their *county* needs a player. The homeschooling student must appeal to that school.
- Private schoolers that DO NOT have that sport/club, etc at their school may also try out/participate in any districted public school extracurricular.
- Parents must complete a participation form signed to confirm GPA is consistent with the designation of the county/school and show current COMAR compliance for homeschoolers with their county or umbrella/oversight reviewer.
- If funding is the problem, add a ***per-pupil amount*** for each homeschooler registered in the county. The counties could do SO much with that funding for the public schoolers as well!!

Thank you for voting favorably for HB 1528.