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Maryland State Ways and Means Committee
131 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

To the Distinguished Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

Hello, my name is Lisa Saunders and I am currently a homeschooling parent and taxpayer in Talbot County. I'm writing today to encourage the Ways and Means Committee to vote favorably to pass the Homeschool Students in Maryland - Right to Play bill (HB 1043).

Homeschool families pay local property and income taxes that fund public schools, yet their children are excluded from publicly funded programs. This is a tax equity issue, not just a policy preference. Adding a homeschool athlete has minimal marginal cost with little to no additional administrative burden beyond existing processes. In addition, wider talent pools improve teams, boost school and community engagement, and can even increase attendance at games.

I have two athletic elementary aged children. One is currently attending a local public school while one is currently homeschooled. I have seen how participating in sports can greatly improve their self esteem, work ethic, and health. Given our location there are not many recreation leagues above elementary to middle school age. This would put a dire strain on our family as it would be hard to travel to participate in sports. I would love it if they have the ability to try out for local high school sports when the time comes.

Homeschooling is a legally recognized option for schooling in our state and our children deserve equal access to high school sports. This bill asks for nothing more than fair access to programs already funded by all taxpayers. I respectfully urge the committee to vote yes on HB 1043. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Best regards,
Lisa Saunders
Cordova, MD
Homeschooling Parent