

FAV. HB -1185
Tiffany Wahba
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Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing in favor of the Bill 1185 and the "Right to Play." We have been a Maryland homeschool family since 2017. Living in both Anne Arundel County and Carroll County during those years has allowed our family to submit portfolio work and undergo semi-annual reviews to ensure regular and thorough instruction under county supervision. We feel deep gratitude.

As active members in our community, we would like the ability to participate in the public education sports programs. Our tax dollars contribute to local education without receiving the same benefits for books, supplies, etc. We are asking for the right for our children to try-out for the public school teams and participate in sports alongside their peers. Without this ability, not only do home educated students not have an equal opportunity to play but for some, their future may even be hindered.

Recreational leagues are expensive and most age out between sixth and eighth grade. Many students have no access to these opportunities. To address this discriminatory problem, several states have already adopted this equal opportunity idea. While Maryland homeschoolers can undergo special needs testing at their local school, join the PTA, support fundraisers and attend dramatic productions, they are currently banned from participating in sports: an after school activity. I urge in support of House Bill 1185 and open the door for Maryland homeschool students to participate in sports alongside their peers.

Sincerely,
Tiffany Wahba