

**HB 1043:** Homeschool Students in Maryland - Right to Play: Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Ways & Means Committee:

I am writing to express my strong **support for MD HB 1043**, which seeks to affirm the right of homeschool students in Maryland to participate in extracurricular activities, including playing sports, at local public schools.

Homeschool participants would follow the same health, insurance, immunization (with exemptions), conduct, and safety rules as enrolled students and be responsible for their own transportation, while school liability insurance covers them equally, with **priority given to enrolled students when spots are limited**.

Many Maryland homeschool families seek opportunities for their children to engage in team sports, build social skills, and stay physically active through public school extracurricular programs. **Current policies often exclude homeschoolers, limiting access to valuable community-based athletics that benefit physical health, teamwork, and character development. This bill provides a fair, voluntary option.**

**Empowering homeschool students with equal access to public school sports and other extracurricular activities fosters inclusion, supports family educational choices, and promotes healthy lifestyles for all Maryland youth without imposing burdens on schools or taxpayers.**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **support MD HB 1043 to promote inclusivity** and ensure that all children in Maryland have the right to play and participate in extracurricular activities.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important educational equity and youth sports legislation.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals