

March 2, 2026

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to consider HB 1043. As a former public school parent and a longtime homeschooling mother, I have seen firsthand the diversity of opportunities within both educational environments. I believe that affording our children the opportunity to participate together in public high school sports is a meaningful way to broaden their horizons- both literally and experientially.

We should foster a sense of unity and community in every way we can, and that begins with our young people. While students in Maryland learn in a variety of settings- homeschool, public school, in-person, or virtual, they are still members of the same communities. Bringing them together as teammates would strengthen those communities and provide valuable opportunities for growth, teamwork, and mutual respect.

Provided that students demonstrate the adequate (and equal) skills required to participate in their respective sports and that the liability waivers and insurance coverage required are satisfied, I believe that that this bill would not only be beneficial to students, but could have lasting positive affects for our communities and our state as a whole.

I respectfully encourage your support of HB 1043.

Sincerely,

Ciarra Stalker