

My name is Matthew Brittain.

I am a homeschool student, and I think homeschool kids should be able to play middle school and high school sports at their local public schools.

Our families pay taxes just like families who send their kids to public school. We are not asking for special treatment. We just want the same opportunity to try out and earn a spot on the team.

Recreational and travel sports are options, but by high school, rec sports are not very competitive because most athletes are playing high school sports or travel. If you are not on one of those teams, you can start to fall behind.

Travel sports can also cost a lot of money and take a lot of time. Not every family can afford that. For some kids, high school sports are the only real chance to compete at a higher level.

Sports teach teamwork, discipline, and leadership. They teach you how to work hard and how to handle winning and losing. Those are important life skills.

Even though I am homeschooled, I am still part of my community. I live here, I practice here, and I should be able to represent my community on the field just like other kids who live here.

Homeschool works better for me, and I feel like I learn more. The schools near us are already overcrowded, and I should not have to go back just to play baseball. Letting homeschool students play sports would not add to classroom overcrowding because we would only be there for practices and games.

Baseball is something I work hard at and care a lot about, and I just want the chance to earn my spot like everyone else. I am not ready to be left behind.

I have two years until I start 9th grade, and I am praying this becomes a law by then. But not every kid has two years to wait. My cousin will be in 11th grade next year, and I would love to see her get the chance to play her sports too.

Students should not have to choose between the way they learn best and the sport they love.

Thank you for listening.