

Subject: Support for HB 1528 – Education – Homeschool Students – Extracurricular Activities

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gina Gibson, and I am a resident of Harford County, Maryland. I am writing to express my support for **HB 1528**, which would allow students participating in a home instruction program to participate in extracurricular activities at their local public schools under certain conditions.

Extracurricular activities such as athletics, music programs, academic clubs, and other school-sponsored activities provide important opportunities for young people to develop teamwork, leadership, discipline, and social skills. These experiences often play a significant role in a student's overall development and well-being.

Families who choose home instruction remain part of their local communities and continue to contribute to the public school system through their tax dollars. Allowing homeschool students reasonable access to extracurricular activities recognizes that these students are also members of the community and should have opportunities to participate in programs that enrich their education and personal growth.

HB 1528 strikes an appropriate balance by allowing participation while prioritizing students who are enrolled in the school when space is limited. This ensures fairness while still expanding opportunities for homeschool students.

Many other states already allow homeschooled students to participate in extracurricular activities at their local public schools, and the experience in those states demonstrates that such policies can be implemented successfully without negatively impacting enrolled students.

Ultimately, this bill promotes inclusivity, strengthens community connections, and allows more Maryland students to benefit from programs that support healthy development and academic engagement.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to give **HB 1528 a favorable report.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gina Gibson
Harford County, Maryland