

Judith Pollack, PhD
judithkdr@gmail.com | (443) 520-9943

Laurel, March 2, 2026

To:
House of Delegates Ways and Means Committee
Attn: Chair Wilkins and Vice Chair Feldmark
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a homeschooling parent of two, living in Howard County, and I am in favor of House Bill 1043 titled "Homeschool Students in Maryland - Right to Play."

Athletics and sports are crucial in developing character and resilience in young people. Homeschool students, just like their public school counterparts, have the potential to excel when given the proper training and mentoring. The high school (and middle school) years are particularly special for a student to discover new interests and develop them. As tax-paying residents of Howard County, our family would love for our children to get some benefits through this Right to Play.

While there exists alternative options for homeschooled students for specific sports, such as basketball, the options are very limited and usually involve out-of-pocket expenses. Moreover, the experience, training, and competitiveness may not be at the same level as the experience of a public high school team. Homeschool students, even excellent athletes, miss out on opportunities to live out their athletic potential.

Allowing homeschool students to participate in public school athletic events gives the competitive experience, visibility for college scouts, and preparation for college-level athletics (if desired). It also builds strong relationships between public-school athletes and homeschool athletes, as they work towards a common goal. It is possible that several of these students end up representing Maryland in a future Olympic team.

Our family has homeschooled since 2015, when our oldest started Kindergarten. Our children are thriving, and we have a great homeschool community for academics and fellowship. My daughter would have considered cheer, dance, or basketball. My youngest son (6th grade) loves to play sports, but his passion is running. He would do great in sprint and hurdle races. Reservoir High School (the school we would have been assigned to) has a beautiful field for Track and Field, dedicated coaches, and equipment. It would be great if my son would get the opportunity to play without having to give up homeschooling.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Judith Pollack, PhD