

Written Witness Testimony  
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House Bill 1043 – Homeschool Students in Maryland - Right to Play

My name is Ronny Wahba, and I've been a nearly lifelong resident of the State of Maryland. I grew up in Maryland benefitting from the Public School System and enjoying many years playing high school sports including tennis, golf, and soccer. At the same time, for the last nine years, my wife and I have elected to homeschool our five children in Maryland. At this point our oldest child, Simon, is just heading into high school for the 2026-2027 school year. He loves playing soccer and basketball, and enjoys almost all sports for the competition, camaraderie, and challenge. One of my great regrets in our homeschooling journey is the knowledge that he (and my other children) would not be able to enjoy the same sports experience that I was able to enjoy throughout high school and that I would not get to cheer them on in that environment. This Right to Play bill has given me a glimmer of hope and not only for my oldest son Simon, but for my additional four children after him who would get the opportunity to enjoy building friendships, relationships, and challenge their mind and body through team sports. While there are opportunities for our children to participate in sports leagues during high school through rec leagues and private sports, it does place an additional logistical and financial burden on our family. Further, the quality of leagues and competition vary greatly, and are often far inferior to Public School System Sports. Passing this Bill would solve so many issues for us and other homeschoolers and allow our family to be further connected with our community. It would be such a great delight for my children and likely enable us to continue homeschooling our children for the duration of their education. It seems right and fair to allow homeschool children the Right to Play given the fact that homeschool families are not consuming resources from the Public School System but are incurring educational costs personally. It seems right and fair that our children will be afforded the opportunity to participate in Sports offer by the State School system, whom we support as residence.

Thank you,



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Signed 03-02-2026  
Ronny E. Wahba, P.E.