

**To:** Members of the Ways and Means Committee

**From:** Mina K. Sachdev, Psy.D.

**Date:** March 2, 2026

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **HB1043**. As a homeschooling parent of eight years, I have experienced firsthand both the immense benefits of home education and the significant hurdles families face when seeking athletic opportunities.

While we chose homeschooling as the best path for our family, we have found that access to sports remains a difficult barrier to overcome. Athletics are a vital component of a well-rounded education, yet for homeschoolers, the obstacles—prohibitive costs, long travel distances for private clubs, and the scarcity of certain sports outside the public school framework—are often insurmountable.

My daughter is an avid athlete who thrives on team experience. As she approaches high school, our hope is that she will have the opportunity to represent her community on the field if she has the inclination and skill to do so. This access is critical for students with aspirations for collegiate athletics. Conversely, my son—now a college freshman—might have discovered a lifelong passion for sports had the path to participation been more accessible during his K-12 years.

Every student deserves the chance to develop the character, discipline, and community spirit that team sports provide. HB1043 would bridge this gap for Maryland families and ensure that a student's educational setting does not dictate their access to physical fitness and teamwork.

I respectfully urge a **favorable report** on HB1043. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mina K. Sachdev, Psy.D.

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