

Dear Chair Wilkins and committee members,

My name is Bree Evans; I have been homeschooled since second grade and before that I went to a private school. I'm writing to express my strong support for Bill HB1528, also known as Homeschooled students, being able to partake in public school extracurricular activities. This means quite a lot to me considering I've grown up playing basketball and it would be an enormous loss for me to have to stop just because I cannot play for my local high school.

This bill, in summary, is a response to something that has been discussed time and time again and has been brought up frequently as of late. The parents and families of homeschooled children's tax dollars have gone to schools for activities they cannot even participate in. Though that is one of the strongest arguments for said bill, this is an issue for multiple more reasons. I have a sister with dyslexia who would struggle in the public school system but thrives in homeschool. My sister is also an athlete and her having to make the decision of whether she wants to continue playing sports or wants to pursue an education that works for her is not one I want her to have to make.

Another reason that I support this bill is for my own personal learning experiences. I have done so much better homeschooling than I could imagine, and I would not like to give that up for a sport just because it's a large part of my life. One of my biggest personal convictions for this bill to pass is that I have a late birthday and even though I am technically in ninth grade, if I went to high school next year, the system would automatically make me redo my entire freshman year. Even though I enjoyed this year of school I would not like to have to do it over again.

I know many other homeschoolers that are facing this same issue whether with sports or other extracurriculars. I am glad that this issue is being recognized and sincerely hope that this bill is passed. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Bree Evans