

Testimony in Favor of HB 1185

To Whom it may concern:

I approve House Bill 1185. Senior athletes are struggling between the pandemic and their athletic careers. Many rely on sports not just for additional skills such as teamwork, discipline, and work ethic but for the opportunity to be scouted and go on to play on a collegiate level. For many students, particularly at my school, college is not affordable. The chance to get a college education with the added assistance of a scholarship is the dream of many of our student-athletes.

A real-world example of this is a student I have been working with for years. He had an outstanding Sophomore season in football at Long Reach High School. He, unfortunately, suffered a minor injury and only played the first two games of his Junior year. Colleges looking at his profile kept commenting the same thing, that they needed more film and footage of him playing in order for them to secure his college offer. This young man overcame his injury and was primed for a stellar Senior Year, but then, the pandemic hit. Since we are just now able to start the Fall Sports season, his dream of attending a four-year college has become a reality once again. The two National Signing Days for Football were in December and February, and as each passed his thoughts of playing sunk further into the COVID-19 inspired depression so many students are facing.

This is the reality for so many of our students, and especially athletes. They have lost their opportunities at scholarships, scouts, and collegiate-level sports. The NCAA granted players an extra year, but high school students are feeling the stress of losing their spots, potential, and additional opportunities.

Our students are suffering, and this is one small glimmer of hope we are offering our athletes. Thank you for considering the passing of House Bill 1185.

Sincerely,

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Position: In Favor