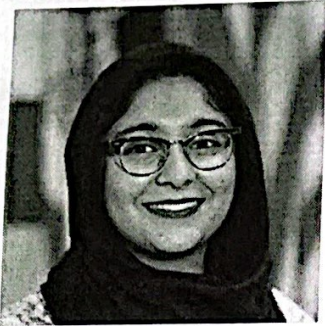


Prince George's County Board of Education
14201 School Lane • Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772 • www.pgcps.org



Raaheela Ahmed
Board Member, District 5
raaheela.ahmed@pgcps.org

- Schools:
Annapolis Road Academy
Alternative High @ Tall Oaks
Benjamin Tasker Middle
Bowie High
C. Elizabeth Rieg Regional
Chapel Forge Early Childhood Center
Heather Hills Elementary
High Bridge Elementary
Imagine Foundations at Leeland Public Charter School
Kenilworth Elementary
Kingsford Elementary
Northview Elementary
Patuxent Elementary
Pointer Ridge Elementary
Rockledge Elementary
Samuel Ogle Middle
Tall Oaks High
Tulip Grove Elementary
Whitehall Elementary
Woodmore Elementary
Yorktown Elementary

February 17, 2022 March 15, 2022

Honorable Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary Senator Paul Pinsky
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee Sen. Cmte. on EHE
House Office Building, Room 131 Miller Senate Ofc. Bldg. 2W
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 951 HB 515 Inclusive Athletic Attire Act

Dear Chair Pinsky and Honorable EHE House Ways and Means Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 951 HB 515 Inclusive Athletic Attire Act. As a current member of the Prince George's County Board of Education, I know the importance of providing an educational system where every student can succeed. I understand that to safeguard equity and inclusiveness we must evolve. I am honored to support legislation that I personally know from my own experience will provide another tool to ensure fairness. I was the person who played sports and wore a hijab. I am a proud former student-athlete who played rugby for three years while wearing my hijab.

Playing organized sports builds character, social and leadership skills that transfer into the classroom and society. We do not need barriers that may keep young women from being able to participate in sports. SB 951 HB 515 will allow Muslim women and others who wear particular clothing for religious reasons to participate in athletics. We must continue to protect their right to religious freedom. Our scholars should not have to choose between religious beliefs and athletics.

Please join me in supporting SB 951 HB 515 and I ask for your favorable report.

Sincerely,

Raaheela Ahmed (handwritten signature)

The Honorable Raaheela Ahmed
Board Member, District 5

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a great education that empowers all students and contributes to thriving communities.

Prince George's County Public Schools