

March 9, 2022

**Testimony Concerning HB 1122, Public Schools-
Home School Students-Extracurricular Activities
(Right to Play Act 2022)
Submitted to the House Committee on Ways and Means**

My name is Brandy Frampton, and I am writing in support of HB 1122 that will allow homeschool students to participate in public school extracurricular activities. I am a resident of Talbot County, where I currently homeschool my two children who are in fourth and sixth grades.

There are a variety of extracurricular activities available to homeschoolers up until eighth grade. Most sports opportunities end after eighth grade, if the child is not enrolled in school. In rural areas like the Eastern Shore, it is even harder to find these types of opportunities after eighth grade. For example, in Talbot County, there is only one high school football team in the entire county. In other areas, there are numerous opportunities on both private school and public school teams in counties with a larger population and more resources.

My children are very athletic and train year-round for sports. My 12-year-old son has been diagnosed with a laundry list of learning disorders. Being challenged in that way took a real hit to his self-esteem. Sports is the one area where he naturally shines, and it has helped him feel better about himself and ultimately improve his performance academically. Both of my children will be devastated if they no longer can play team sports during their high school years. Sports are equally important to many of their homeschool friends. This Bill will not just allow homeschool students to play sports, but to develop skills and to show off their talents in other areas such as playing in the marching band or singing in an acapella group. Allowing homeschoolers to share their talents with their communities is something that benefits our children, public school stakeholders and the community at large.

I have surveyed as many homeschool parents that I could talk to since HB 1122 was introduced and every single one of them is in favor of this Bill. My husband and I pay taxes that support these extracurricular activities and, therefore, it is unfair that our children do not have access to them. The majority of states in our country allow homeschoolers to play on public school sports teams. Why is Maryland so far behind? Please help open up access for homeschoolers to public school extracurricular activities. It is long overdue and much needed. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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