

## **Senate Education Committee**

### Testimony for **Senate Bill 60**

By Jessica Cole

February 2, 2015

Dear Chairman Abrams,

We homeschool our four children. They enjoy it; we enjoy it. They have received an excellent education in Math, Science, Geography, Music...etc. The only thing missing is sports.

Living in a small town there is no other option outside of the public school for the older children. The children have participated in the local Park and Rec. for years playing volleyball, soccer, basketball, and baseball. Now that they are too old for those programs, must it come to an end? We tried the part-time public school. I was thankful the option does exist... yet we are able to offer a superior curriculum at home. Do we really have to make a choice between sports and academics? Our children need both.

The teachers in our area agree with me. They are willing to accept our teens on their team, but policy from the school board stands in their way.

Furthermore, I am torn because I was able to pay for my college degree through sports scholar ships. I believe my children have the ability to do this as well. Yet how can they improve with no team?

Would you please help us change this? Allow homeschool students to participate in public school sports with out needing to attend classes at the school.

Jessica Cole