

Representative Joe Miller – Sponsor Testimony HB 459

11/18/20

Good morning Chair Jones, Vice Chair Manchester, Ranking Member Robinson and members of the committee for the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 459, which prohibits coaches from restricting participation in other extracurricular activities.

I also want to thank my joint sponsor, Representative Adam Miller, for bringing this issue to my attention and allowing me to join in this effort.

As a former athlete and coach of multiple sports, I understand the tremendous benefit that sports can provide for a student's development. Sports teach responsibility and discipline of both mind and body, but should be *paired with* other activities for optimal student growth, rather than being a student's *only* activity.

I must echo my joint sponsor's statement that he provided in his written testimony, that denying students the ability to participate in more than one activity puts the coach's self-interest over the student athletes. In this case, the coach is encouraging students to "put all of their eggs in one basket" when it comes to their respective sport, as opposed to diversifying their resume. Thank you for your consideration.