

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Finance Committee, I am the executive director of Adaptive Sports Ohio and I appreciate the opportunity to offer testimony on House Bill 33.

It has been our privilege to work with the Ohio Legislature during the last four budget cycles to promote change and provide interscholastic wheelchair basketball to students with physical disabilities. Starting as just an idea in 2015, we moved from a pilot program with one team to a league including eight school districts (Austintown, Jackson, Tallmadge, Wooster, Massillon, Plain, Wadsworth and Beavercreek). For the next school year, we have six new districts committed (Cleveland Metro, Newark, Boardman, Centerville, and North Canton). We also have three additional districts that have pending agreements. With the new districts that are onboarding, we will double the size of our interscholastic wheelchair basketball league during the 2023-2024 school year.

Fueled by the support our organization received from the State, we are accomplishing what we've set out to do: work alongside school districts to create opportunities for students with disabilities to participate in sport and improve their social, emotional, physical and academic outcomes. This program is successful and I am proud to have two athletes with me here today who will share the benefits they've experienced. Ryan Hannan was our first Ohio interscholastic wheelchair basketball athlete. He has been playing for eight years on the Wooster Generals Wheelchair Basketball Team, and is a five-time state champion. Abby LaPole has been a member of the Jackson Polar Bears Wheelchair Basketball Team since its inception in 2019, and is also a seated track athlete at her school. I am so blessed to have met Ryan and Abby through this opportunity, and to watch them play basketball and succeed on and off the court. Every student, just like Ryan and Abby, deserves the opportunity to play school sports and wear their school colors. While sports are a privilege and not a right, the Rehabilitation Act insists that interscholastic activities be afforded equally to students with and without disabilities. Our program here in Ohio demonstrates that this is possible. Ryan and Abby's stories are why it is so important.

We are grateful that the Ohio Legislature has invested in this program over the last eight years and we respectfully request to remain in the FY24-25 budget. We are appreciative that the House reinstated our earmark through funds generated by the sports gaming bill and request that the Senate retain it. Thank you all for your consideration and I am happy to answer any questions at this time.



OHIO INTERSCHOLASTIC WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

Established by Adaptive Sports Ohio, Ohio Interscholastic Adaptive Sports (OIAS) is the governing body for interscholastic wheelchair basketball. OIAS oversees all aspects of interscholastic wheelchair basketball, including the rules, post-season, and sportsmanship.

ABOUT ADAPTIVE SPORTS OHIO

The mission of Adaptive Sports Ohio is to remove barriers to ensure that individuals with physical disabilities have a chance to play, and utilize sport to elevate ability and empower futures. It is our goal to increase interscholastic adaptive sport opportunities for students with physical disabilities.

The wheelchair basketball league is one example of how we help students play sports within their school district. Adaptive Sports Ohio's community-based sports are open to all ages including disabled veterans, multiple disability types, and vary by location. Our program managers are available to help find the best fit for you. If you would like to contact us, email info@adaptivesportsohio.org.

WELCOME NEW TEAMS 2023-2024 SEASON



**BOARDMAN
SPARTANS**



**CENTERVILLE
ELKS**



**NORTH CANTON
VIKINGS**



**NEWARK
WILDCATS**



**CLEVELAND METRO
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

WOOSTER GENERALS VS AUSTINTOWN FALCONS

CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

Doors Open	4:00PM
Warm-ups Begin	4:30PM
Game Start	5:00PM
Awards Presentation	6:30PM
Conclusion	6:45PM

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Ohio Secretary of State
Frank LaRose

Paralympian & Hall of Famer
Paul Schulte

State Representative
Gail Pavliga

CHAMPIONSHIP OFFICIALS

James Roth

Greg Piatt

Ray Parker



The Ohio Interscholastic Wheelchair Basketball Championship is being streamed online for \$19.99. Share this QR code with your network.



Pictures from the championship can be purchased at <https://t.maxpreps.com/41aDpEV> or by scanning the QR code. Pictures will be available for purchase starting Monday, February 27th.

Thank you to MetroHealth for providing medical services for today's game.



MetroHealth

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WOOSTER GENERALS



WOOSTER WHEELCHAIR GENERALS | EST. 2015
4X DEFENDING STATE CHAMPIONS

RECORD: 11-0



HEAD COACH: Brett Followay

ASST. COACH: Greg Johnson

2022-2023 ROSTER

4	Ryan Hannan
10	Makayla Maxwell
12	Austin Wilcox
22	Zack Gerrick*
30	Nathan Pasteur*
35	Ella Wirth
44	Madyson Followay*
55	Colin Harig

** denotes athlete designated as non-disabled*

AUSTINTOWN FALCONS



AUSTINTOWN WHEELCHAIR FALCONS | EST. 2017

RECORD: 11-1



HEAD COACH: Cara Hahn

2022-2023 ROSTER

3	Jackson Detchon*
4	Gabriel Myers
5	Leif Dietrich
10	Franklin Nicola
12	Natalie Myers*
20	Logan Lindon
22	Justin Hahn*

** denotes athlete designated as non-disabled*

TALMADGE BLUE DEVILS



TALMADGE WHEELCHAIR BLUE DEVILS | EST. 2017

RECORD: 6-6



HEAD COACH: Monica Currey

ASST. COACH: Greg Michalec

ASST. COACH: Cory Michalec

2022-2023 ROSTER

2	Justin Steele	20	Michael Mami
10	Iyad Yasin	22	Samantha Blatt
11	Benjamin James	24	Shataeya Patton
12	Dylon Donnell	32	Emma Allen
14	Kai Ballew	33	Cerafina Currey

JACKSON POLAR BEARS



JACKSON WHEELCHAIR POLAR BEARS | EST. 2019

RECORD: 6-7



HEAD COACH: Jordan Weaver

ASST. COACH: Alexic Yoder

2022-2023 ROSTER

2	Devon Burks	25	Mason Shock
5	Gavin Carr	33	Maya Fulmer
11	Dawson Simons	42	Jason Davide
15	Cameron McMahan	45	Ken Ward
20	Jackson Prince	51	Abby LaPole
21	Will Simons	54	Ben Holzopfel

WADSWORTH GRIZZLIES



WADSWORTH WHEELCHAIR GRIZZLIES | EST. 2022

RECORD: 4-5



HEAD COACH: Michael Irwin

ASST. COACH: Charlie Ries

2022-2023 ROSTER

0 David Rutherford

3 Jacob Workman

4 Adam White

5 Aiden Jones

12 Eric Decker

15 Sullivan Chadbourne

21 Lucas Workman

22 Duncan Frantz

33 Sean Hubbard

40 Cadin Bux

PLAIN LOCAL EAGLES



PLAIN LOCAL WHEELCHAIR EAGLES | EST. 2017

RECORD: 0-10



HEAD COACH: Meghan Neff

2022-2023 ROSTER

3	Karam Al Kaied
11	Allison Johnson
12	Giovanni Patron
20	Amirah Evans
23	Tori Johnson
31	Ricky Patron
32	Marayah Nicholson
44	Elena Knowles

BEAVERCREEK BEAVERS



BEAVERCREEK ROLLING BEAVERS | EST. 2021

RECORD: 0-6



HEAD COACH: James Terpenning

ASST. COACH: Jim McCormack

ASST. COACH: Richard Drye

ASST. COACH: Amy Yates

2022-2023 ROSTER

0 Kenzie Nelson

2 Thomas Kutter

3 Thomas Flach

10 Zhao McEllroy

11 Aiden Conteh

12 Jake Robertson

14 Enora McEllroy

22 Julie Kutter

23 Alex Schmidt

24 Mae Frisk

33 Jack Hoos

42 Ava Nelson

44 Matt Drye

50 Zoe Roll

55 Carson Koenig

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