

**Lisa Cataldi**

---

**From:** Vicki Smith Breitbach <vlsb81@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 6:27 PM  
**To:** House Education Committee  
**Cc:** Vicki Smith Breitbach  
**Subject:** Support for House Bill 6271 (Hearing on May 6, 2025, at 3:00 PM)

Dear Chairperson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 6271, scheduled for a hearing on May 6, 2025, at 3:00 PM. I respectfully request that this letter be entered into the official record in support of the bill.

My daughter, a sixth-grade student at Meadowbrook Waldorf School (MWS), was recently denied the chance to play basketball with our local public school team in Scituate, even though MWS does not offer any sports programs.

House Bill 6271 addresses a clear gap in Rhode Island's interscholastic athletics policy. It would allow middle school students to join a sport at their local public school if their own school does not offer that sport. This is a fair and common-sense approach that ensures students aren't excluded from participation simply because of the size or resources of their school.

Currently, high school and home-schooled students are allowed to participate in public school athletics under similar circumstances. Unfortunately, middle school students at independent or small schools are not granted the same opportunity. House Bill 6271 corrects this inconsistency.

The bill outlines a thoughtful and limited exception:

- It applies only if the student's school does not offer the sport;
- It requires written confirmation from the student's school and approval from the public school principal;
- It does not impose any new requirements on public schools to create teams or expand existing programs.

I firmly believe that all Rhode Island students deserve equal access to extracurricular opportunities, regardless of where they attend school. House Bill 6271 upholds this principle by promoting inclusion and equity in school sports.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,  
Vicki Smith Breitbach

Scituate, RI