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Memo from Maika Dunbar-Alcalde, Ph.D. and Marco Alcalde

*Both my husband and I have University educations. We highly value education for our children.

* We chose to provide education at home for our older son, as it is our legal right to do so.

*Each year we have chosen to home school, we have been required to gain approval to do so through the local district.

*We have attended school board meetings and learned that the district administrators regularly review their strategy to lure home school students back to public schools. Home schooling appears to be viewed as a competitive threat to the public school institution.

* However, public school administrators always strive to get parents involved in the education of their children. It is commonly known this leads to the best results for students. I believed the objective of all education programs is what yields the best results for each and every student.

* Our son's performance in standardized testing has verified the success of his education program at home.

* Our son's passion for athletics became a significant issue when he reached high school age. There is a clear path to higher competition, greater personal development, and future opportunities through high school sports. Our son was not going to be allowed to participate if he remained a student who received his education at home.

* In the fall of 2002, we chose to put him into the public school ONLY to gain access to the sports program.

* In the fall of 2002, the local district approved a motion to allow home school students to participate in sports. However, the administrators adopted a very restrictive process that effectively prevented home school students from participating in nearly all sports.

* Prior to approval of the motion, nearly all of the members of the board of trustees expressed their position on participation access. Overwhelmingly, the board expressed their believe that if access was approved, access should be equal and without any special restrictions.

* As members of this community, as a tax paying family of this state, and as parents of a child governed by the local school district, my husband and I are extremely frustrated by this issue. We believe there is a justifiable position for fair and equal access to sports activities in public schools by home schooled students.

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ASSEMBLY EDUCATION
DATE: 4/7/23 ROOM: 3143 EXHIBIT U
SUBMITTED BY: MAIKA DUNBAR-ALCALDE Ph.D.