



Subject: Aligning MAHA Physical Activity Goals with HB 654 Reporting Changes

Dear Members of the Kentucky Make America Healthy Again Task Force,

I wanted to briefly share a perspective from KYSHAPE regarding House Bill 654. While the bill is currently moving through the House and has not yet reached the Senate, I thought it would be helpful to bring this to the task force's attention early given our shared work around improving student health and physical activity.

KYSHAPE appreciated the opportunity to participate in the Make America Healthy Again Task Force discussions last fall. Many of the recommendations that emerged from those conversations focused on strengthening opportunities for students to be physically active during the school day, including improvements to recess and school wellness practices.

During my comments to the task force in September, I referenced the Legislative Research Commission's Office of Education Accountability (OEA) report examining physical activity in Kentucky schools. That report—and the recommendations that came from it—were possible because Kentucky has required schools to report on physical activity practices.

HB 654 proposes eliminating that statewide reporting requirement. While we understand the goal of reducing administrative burden, removing the reporting creates a potential policy disconnect.

Several proposals this session seek to increase physical activity opportunities for students. The existing reporting has been one of the few mechanisms Kentucky has to measure whether those policies are being implemented and making a difference.

From KYSHAPE's perspective, the data generated through this reporting has already informed research, oversight, and recommendations from OEA. That is exactly the type of information policymakers rely on to guide effective policy. Our view is that Kentucky should look for ways to strengthen and streamline this reporting—not step back from it.

Thank you for your continued leadership and for your commitment to the health and well-being of Kentucky's students.

Sincerely,

Jamie Sparks

Executive Director, KYSHAPE