

Jeremy Guyse
February 16, 2006

The Honorable Yvonne Kennedy
Room 537-C
11 South Union Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Representative Kennedy:

Recently I attended your education committee's public hearing on House Bill 20. My father, Tim Guyse, was one of the men who spoke at the hearing. Since I did not get to speak at the hearing, I would like to share with you some of the reasons I feel HB 20 should be passed. I am a 14-year old home schooled student who plays baseball and soccer. Last year both of my teams won state championships. I have been asked by public school coaches and my teammates to try out for their teams, but the Alabama High School Athletic Association will not allow me to play unless I am enrolled as a "full time" student. This is unfair, since my parents pay taxes that support the public schools. If insurance is a problem, my parents could buy insurance for me and sign a liability waiver like they do when I play sports in the city leagues. As I get older, there are not as many opportunities to play city league sports because all of the athletes begin playing high school sports and there are not enough players for the city leagues. In fact my athletic career could end this year once I enter 9th grade. In the attached paragraph I tell about the most exciting day of my baseball career so far. If you pass this bill I will get to make more memories like this. As a musician who plays piano, guitar, drums and trumpet, I might also have an opportunity to use my talents in the local high school band. Please support this bill for the future of all home school students. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Guyse

The Most Exciting Day of My Baseball Career

It was a hot summer's day in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. It was the play-off game deciding who would go into bracket play in the Dixie Boys World Series. If we lost this game we would be sent home with nothing more than a goody bag. We were down three to two, and there were two outs in the bottom of the last inning. Since we had a better record than the team from Florida, all we had to do was tie them and we would go on to the next round. Jared Elms was up to bat, with me nervously waiting on deck. Ping! He hit a hard line drive into center, and was safe at first. The crowd cheered as I stepped up to the plate. I looked over at our third base coach. He gave me the take sign, and I nodded as I stepped into the box. I looked up at the tall lanky pitcher who had pitched the whole game. He smiled at me with a somewhat sinister smile, and I squinted my eyes as the sun glared off of his braces. The pitch. "Strike!" the umpire called, but Jared was safe at second with a steal. The next pitch was a ball, low and outside. The catcher scrambled to get the ball but it was too late. Jared was safe at third. There I was with our fastest runner on third base with the count one and one. All I had to do was get him home. The wind up and the pitch. PING! I slammed a soaring hit down the left field line, but I hit it so hard it curved over the fence, FOUL. The crowd was hanging from the fence, checking their blood pressures, and hyperventilating. In fact, I had to check my pulse to make sure I was still alive. Coach Bruce called time-out and motioned Jared and me over. First he let us catch our breath. Then we decided to do a hit and run and have Jared steal home. I stepped into the box with two strikes on me, and I knew no matter what the pitch I had to hit it. I looked up at the pitcher and gave a little smile. He gave his little half sinister smile and started into his wind-up, as Jared leapt for home. CAPING! I hit a hard grounder to short stop. Jared was home so fast he tipped the back of my leg as I took off for first. I saw the short stop out of the corner of my eye fumble around with the ball, but he recovered and threw the ball off balance in the dirt. The first base man dropped the ball as I zinged through the base. The crowd went wild! We were going to bracket play in the World Series.

Jeremy Guyse
February 6, 2006



Jeremy receives the game ball from Coach Day after that memorable game.