



# DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW YORK

## **New York's Protection & Advocacy System and Client Assistance Program**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **High Schooler with Disabilities Denied Right to Play Basketball**

**Rochester, NY - May 17, 2017** – B.M., a high school student with disabilities, filed a lawsuit in the Western District of New York District Court challenging the denial of eligibility to play high school basketball by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA), and Section IV of NYSPHSAA. B.M. will need to attend a fifth year of high school because of his disabilities. However, these defendants refused to even consider modifying the eligibility limitation of four consecutive seasons.

B.M loves basketball and has been a proud member of his high school's team for four seasons. However, his disabilities have limited his play, including only playing eight minutes in one season. "I've played basketball since I was in first grade and enjoy being part of a team," said B.M. "Being competitive motivates me to want to go to school even when I'm hurting."

"Every student should have an equal opportunity to play high school sports," said DRNY Executive Director Timothy Clune. "This lawsuit will allow B.M and all students with disabilities to enjoy the full high school experience, including participating in competitive sports."

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