



Student Homelessness
Initiative Partnership
of Frederick County

P.O. Box 1629 • Frederick Maryland 21702 • 240-415-8971

SUPPORT

SB 207 – Unaccompanied Minors in Need of Shelter and Supportive Services

**Hearing of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,
February 5, 2020**

Testimony of Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership (SHIP) of Frederick County

SHIP provides critical resources and urgent services to the hundreds of Frederick County youth experiencing homelessness each year, the majority of which are minors. SHIP seeks to lift up these young people so that they can realize their best potential, complete their education, and be poised to break the cycle of poverty they find themselves in.

SHIP of Frederick County supports the enactment of SB 207, which establishes that unaccompanied minors who are experiencing homelessness have legal capacity to consent to admission to sheltering programs registered with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity that provides critical resources and urgent services to the hundreds of Frederick County youth experiencing homelessness each year, the majority of which are minors, passing SB 207 would enable our organization, and other organizations like ours in Maryland, to provide safe and secure shelter for unaccompanied homeless minors at a critically important time when no other housing options exist.

SHIP of Frederick County strongly urges the committee to issue a Favorable Report on SB 207.

Please contact Ed Hinde, Executive Director, with any questions.

