



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

## **Vote Yes on Senate Bill 572**

**Bill Title:** Education - Home and Hospital Teaching Program for Students

**Hearing Date:** March 3, 2020

### **Senate Bill 572**

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Committee:

. Thank you for this opportunity to present **SB572 Education - Home and Hospital Teaching Program for Students** to Study the Home and Hospital Teaching Program for Students. This bill would create a group to study the Home and Hospital Teaching Program here in Maryland to determine if enough is being done to reintegrate students back into traditional schools.

The goals of this Bill which passed the House in 2019, are 5 fold: (1) to require the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to assess whether students in Home and Hospital Teaching program are receiving adequate support and instructional time to successfully transition back to the classroom; (2) MSDE would also analyze whether local school systems have sufficient staffing to coordinate instructional services for students; (3) study whether transition plans for students returning to the classroom should be implemented and, if so, the viability of having school counselors lead and develop those plans; (4) assess whether any transition plans should be reviewed or evaluated by a licensed medical professional prior to implementation; and (5) make recommendations regarding any statutory or regulatory changes to the Home and Hospital Teaching Program for Students.

The Home and Hospital program is an educational service for students who have medical, physical and/or disciplinary challenges. When students are experiencing physical or emotional conditions that make it impossible for them to attend school, this program lets them continue their education.

However, the Home and Hospital Teaching program must be improved. As it exists now, it does not prepare students for reintegration into a classroom learning environment, especially in the cases presented by students whose behavioral or emotional condition makes it difficult for them to attend school. These students remain out of school for excessive periods of time, and often when they do return to a classroom, the school is not prepared with an adequate re-entry plan. This is not just traumatic for the student, but it is traumatic for everyone around them.