

Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair  
Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

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Support for S.B. 0791, Pregnant and Parenting Students Policies

I strongly support S.B.0791, Pregnant and Parenting Students Policies, which would accommodate students experiencing pregnancy and parenting by providing them with private lactation places, and other support services at school. With this bill, students will be able to coordinate with an advisor/teacher to assist them in their education.

Students should not be forced to choose between school and family. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, roughly thirty percent of all teenage girls that drop out say that the main reason is due to pregnancy and parenthood. This statistics is even higher for Hispanic and African American teens. By passing this legislation and implementing this policy, Maryland has the possibility to drop this statistic. Supporting young teens with resources during pregnancy by providing them with a private place in the school where they could take care of their baby could potentially help them continue their enrollment in school. Although teaching teens about safe and protected sex is important, it is equally as important to provide accomodations during one of the most important years of their lives.

In providing options to young girls experiencing pregnancy and parenting students, we are creating a supportive atmosphere for teens to continue their education. Education creates a foundation for thoughtful and motivated adults. I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 0791. Thank you for this opportunity to testify!

Sources:

<https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/teen-pregnancy-affects-graduation-rates-postcard.aspx>