

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Bernard C. “Jack” Young
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Linda Chinnia
*Chair, Baltimore City Board of
School Commissioners*

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer

**Testimony of the
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
Support with Amendment
Senate Bill 34 – Consumer Protection –
Scanning or Swiping Identification Cards and Driver’s Licenses – Prohibition**

January 29, 2020

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners understand the need for a secure and safe environment for its students and staff, particularly in light of the tragic incident at the occurred at Frederick Douglass High School. In our schools, we currently use the scanning of identification cards and driver’s license as a way to ensure that our students and staff are safe. The school board in no way wants to lose the ability to determine who is in the building, especially since many of our schools are in locations that are perceived as unsafe.

A blanket prohibition against scanning for schools should be avoided and is not in the best interest of safety for our students and staff. **The school board would request that school systems be amended out of this legislation.** This body passed the Safe to Learn Act of 2018 and this law requires, rightfully so, that school boards put in place strategies, policies and school resource officers to improve safety measures at our school buildings. The removal of the ability to scan or swipe identification cars or driver’s licenses is contrary to the efforts.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports with amendment Senate Bill 34 and urges a favorable report with the amendment proposed.

Dawana Merritt Sterrette, Esq.
Director, Legislative and Government Affairs
dsterrette@bcps.k12.md.us
443-250-0190

Melissa Broome
Director, Policy and Legislative Affairs
mcbroome@bcps.k12.md.us
443-525-3038

