

# Education Advocacy Coalition

for Students with Disabilities

## HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

### HOUSE BILL 1204: COUNTY BOARDS AND PUBLIC AND NONPUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS AND SCHOOLS—DISCRIMINATION--PROHIBITION

FEBRUARY 26, 2020

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Education Advocacy Coalition for Students with Disabilities (EAC), a coalition of more than 25 organizations and individuals concerned with education policy for students with disabilities in Maryland supports House Bill 1204, which would prevent discrimination against students and employees in nonpublic schools receiving state funds.

House Bill 1204 would, in part, prohibit a nonpublic elementary or secondary school that receives state funds to refuse enrollment, expel, withhold privileges from or discriminate against any student or prospective student because of the individual's race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. For students with disabilities, this provision ensures that if families choose to enroll their child with a disability in a private school that is not required to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act because it does not receive federal funds, or with the Americans with Disabilities Act because it is run by a religious organization, their children will be protected against disability-based discrimination. House Bill 1204 does not mandate that every student with a disability, no matter how severe must be admitted to and served by a private school from which his or her parents seek enrollment. House Bill 1204 does, however, require that in making such decisions, private schools that receive state funds not engage in discrimination.

For these reasons, the EAC supports House Bill 1204. For additional information, please contact Leslie Seid Margolis, Chairperson, at [lesliem@disabilityrightsmd.org](mailto:lesliem@disabilityrightsmd.org) or 410-727-6352, ext. 2505.

Respectfully submitted,

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