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Economic Matters Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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TESTIMONY OF DELEGATE PAM QUEEN
HB 1028 – Public and Nonpublic Schools - Electric Retractable Room
Partitions - Model Safety Guidelines and Local Law
SUPPORT

Greetings Chair Anne Kaiser, Vice-Chair Alonzo Washington, and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

This bill is a proactive step to require the State Department of Education to develop, disseminate, and publish online guidelines on the safe operation of electric retractable room partitions; and to establish standards for safe electric retractable room partitions operated in a public or nonpublic school.

Unfortunately, the impetus for this bill is the tragic death of a 9 year old student in a Fairfax County school. Although in the last decade, similar tragedies have occurred throughout the Country. In 2019, Virginia enacted provisions as outlined in HB 1028 to provide standards for the operation and type of electronic room partitions allowed in public schools.

This is an important proactive step to ensure all public schools are safe for our children. I seek a favorable recommendation for HB1028 for the safety of our children.