

January 18, 2021

RE: HB 342  
Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD. 21401

Attn: House Ways and Means Committee

**Support for HB 342 – Education – Health and Safety of Students – Problematic Behavior - Notification of Parents / Guardians.**

Good day members of the Committee.

I am writing to you today to support changes to the parent/guardian notification policies within Maryland's schools.

Parents and advocate for education fully support this important piece of legislation that may have a huge impact on the futures of many Maryland students and their families. My son is a teenager with disabilities, and has experienced a variety of types of incidents during the school day. Very often there was a delay in my being informed of incidents of problematic behavior during the school day. My son lacks the ability to process and communicate his experiences during the day. This delay is crucial to seeking help and support in time to be effective in meeting his needs.

I believe that parents and guardians have a right to be informed, as soon as possible, of problems that arise during the school day. Delays in notification can be dangerous to the student and school faculty members. If communication of crucial information is delayed in reaching parents, this can delay the delivery of the help, medical care and support services that children like my son need to deal with stress and unexpected events during the school day.

Also, students are questioned about incidents without a parent or guardian being notified, or present at the time of the questioning, of that child. This can have negative effects on the rights of the child, and on the child's status with the school. As this questioning can often lead to discipline that may not be appropriate to that child, or to that particular type of incident.

Please help us to bring about equal, and high-quality educational opportunities which will serve all Maryland students now and into the future.

We hope that you will all fully support this bill.

Thank you.

Mr. Richard Ceruolo,  
Parent and advocate for children with disabilities and Maryland families.  
Parent Advocacy Consortium