

## **SB0705 Written Testimony**

I support Senate Bill 705. As a recent graduate in the Maryland public education system, I have seen firsthand that while our schools have many strengths, there are also many significant challenges. One of these prevalent challenges is the use of seclusion and restraint tactics on students. For too long, I have heard of students being restrained or secluded in our schools, specifically and disproportionately disabled students. For these students, especially those who cannot fully express their needs, being restrained and secluded is a terrifying experience, often leaving them traumatized for the remainder of their lives.

You are lawmakers. You have been voted in by your constituents, many of whom are parents, to protect and defend the experience of public school students across the state. And not just those who can speak up and stand up for themselves, but for those that cannot. Disabled students and their needs are constantly overlooked and overshadowed in public schools. It's time to change the status quo and make a difference for them. Schools should be a place that fosters curiosity and sparks possibility, not a constant reminder of painfully endured trauma. You are in a position to make change and improve the lives of students, educators, and staff. Stand up for our students and support Senate Bill 705.