



March 28, 2022

Maryland Senate  
11 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD. 21401

**Testimony, In Support: HB 23 – School Discipline – Data Collection**

Good afternoon members of Senate's EHE Committee.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1400 members and fully support students with disabilities. It has become increasingly harder to track student progress and performance. But this landscape has changed due to the passage of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

As if the special education process is not difficult enough for families and students, factors like a lack of a reliable and consistent data sets further complicates our ability to advocate for appropriate accommodations and supports to help us protect our children while they are on school grounds, during the school academic year.

Discipline practices including, seclusion and restraint, occur every day in schools across the state and involve students from all demographic groups. They disproportionately affect groups with minority children especially those children with disabilities. These practices have been shown to be detrimental to the growth, development and overall mental and physical health of students. And often times involve school staff like SROs who may, or may not be fully trained to handle these students properly.

Therefore, it is important for all stakeholders to require MSDE to track school discipline, student progress and resulting student outcomes as the result of the use of such practices. And in the interest of transparency, to make that data available to the public, and to the Maryland State Legislative bodies.

Please return a favorable report on HB 23 so that MSDE will be tasked with accurately tracking the use, and results of the use of discipline, in our schools across the entire state of Maryland.

Thank you for considering our testimony in support of HB 23.

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