

January 18, 2022

Maryland House of Delegates 6 Bladen St. Annapolis, MD. 21401

In Support of HB 84: Education – Crimes on School Grounds - Application

Members of the Maryland House of Delegates Ways and Means Committee.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1300 members and fully support revising the state's education regulations around student conduct in schools and on school grounds.

Too often children with disabilities have their behavior misinterpreted as something other than communication to those around them. Sometimes teens act in ways that adults do not deem as being appropriate, and that leaves the door open to misinterpretation of those behaviors by school personnel. These teen student behaviors sometimes are criminalized by school staff members and SROs.

We trust that these changes will help to further support all Maryland students. The future success and health of all of our students depends on many necessary improvements and supports being in place, during these unusual times, as we begin the long tasks related to implementing the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Thank you all for supporting the education, health and wellbeing of all Anne Arundel County students.

Please support House Bill 84 and return a favorable report. Thank you for your time, and for considering our testimony today.

Mr. Richard Ceruolo Parent and Lead Advocate and Director of Legislative Efforts Parent Advocacy Consortium (Find us on Facebook/Meta) <u>richceruolo@gmail.com</u>