



The Arc Maryland
8601 Robert Fulton Drive, Suite 140
Columbia, MD 21046
T 410.571.9320
F 410.974.6021
www.thearcmd.org

HB84
Education - Crimes on School Grounds - Application
Ways and Means Committee
January 20, 2022

Support

The Arc Maryland is the largest statewide advocacy organization dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

We support HB84 as it aligns with our values and advocacy to create equitable and supportive school environments. Regarding school discipline, we support that discipline should be balanced and earnestly applied to restore order and should only include that which is necessary to address and repair a situation.

HB84 would correct what we believe have been an overreach of the law existing in Maryland Education Code § 26-101. As it currently stands, the statute is broad, vague, and subjective, creating the environment with potential to be clouded by biases, unconscious or otherwise, attached to race and/or disability.

Exempting students from § 26-101 is a necessary step to addressing and repairing the laws, policies, and practices that have criminalized our children, and which have contributed to the school to prison pipeline that disproportionately impacts black and brown students and students with disabilities in Maryland schools. HB84 would go a long way to ensuring there is a more balanced, equitable and restorative approach to creating and restoring order, addressing student behavior through a trauma-informed and supportive lens, rather than through the criminal lens, and ultimately improving long-term outcomes for our future.

Sincerely,

Ande Kolp

The Arc Maryland
phone: 443-851-9351
email: akolp@thearcmd.org