

I strongly support **HB1385 (Parental Right)** for the following reasons:

**1. Strengthens Parental Involvement in Education**

- Ensures that parents have a voice in their children's education and can actively participate in important decisions.
- Encourages schools to work collaboratively with parents to improve student outcomes.

**2. Increases Transparency in Schools**

- Requires school boards to develop clear policies for parental involvement, ensuring that parents are informed about curriculum, policies, and school activities.
- Helps prevent schools from making major decisions about a child's education without parental knowledge or input.

**3. Establishes a Formal Complaint and Appeals Process**

- Gives parents a structured way to address concerns if they believe their parental rights are being ignored or violated.
- Ensures that schools are held accountable when they fail to engage parents in their child's education.

**4. Promotes Better Student Outcomes**

- Studies show that increased parental involvement leads to better academic performance, improved behavior, and higher graduation rates.
- Ensures that parents and educators work together to support students' learning and well-being.

**5. Respects Parents' Rights in Educational Decisions**

- Recognizes that parents, not just school officials, should have a say in their child's education, values, and upbringing.
- Helps safeguard parental rights in areas such as curriculum content, student well-being, and disciplinary matters.

**6. Encourages a More Collaborative Education System**

- Encourages schools to actively seek parental input rather than treating parents as outsiders in their child's education.

- **Strengthens the relationship between families, teachers, and school administrators to create a more supportive learning environment.**

#### **7. Addresses Growing Concerns Over Parental Exclusion**

- **Many parents have expressed concerns about being left out of critical decisions regarding their child's education, mental health, and school policies.**
- **This bill ensures that parental rights are not overlooked in the education system.**

Please vote Favorable toward HB1385!

Nancy Shih

Howard County