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LETTER OF SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 1132 & SENATE BILL 783

February 18, 2025

Chair Atterbeary and Chair Feldman:

On behalf of the LGBTQ+ Caucus, we are writing to express our support of **HB1132/SB783: Public Schools - Student Fights - School Investigation and Discipline**. As advocates and stewards of the LGBTQ+ community, we believe this bill will protect, strengthen, and secure LGBTQ+ rights for all LGBTQ+ residents. The benefits and effects of passing the proposed legislation will create a positive and long-lasting change for all of Maryland.

HB1132/SB783 would require a school administrator to look at each school fight incident and determine if either student was acting in self-defense to protect themselves from a bully or an unprovoked attacker. If a student is determined by the administrator to have used force solely for self-defense, they would not be punished under this law. Many LGBTQ+ students are bullied in schools. Currently, schools have a no-tolerance policy for violence but do not take into consideration if a student is constantly being bullied/harassed/assaulted and decides to fight back in self-defense. If an LGBTQ+ student is being attacked in school, they should have the right to defend themselves from harm and not face automatic consequences because they took action to defend themselves.

Thank you for considering the bill's positive effects on the LGBTQ+ community. Please reach out to us regarding any additional questions or concerns on the bill. We appreciate your efforts in fostering community and furthering rights for all Marylanders.

Respectfully,

Delegate Kris Fair
Chair