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Budget and Taxation Committee  
Chair, Capital Budget Subcommittee

Chair, Senate Democratic Caucus

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker**  
**Senate Bill 507- Public Schools - Individuals With Disabilities - Accessibility and**  
**Emergency Planning**  
**February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**1:00pm**  
**Position: Favorable**

Good afternoon, Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and distinguished members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee. It is my pleasure to testify in support of **Senate Bill 507 - Public Schools - Individuals With Disabilities - Accessibility and Emergency Planning**.

This bill is vital to ensuring that every student has the opportunity to learn in a safe and supportive school environment. Many of our schools, especially older buildings, still have barriers that limit access for students with disabilities, which is especially concerning in emergency situations. Senate Bill 507 seeks to close this gap by making accessibility a core component of school safety and emergency planning.

Currently, local school systems are required to conduct safety evaluations, maintain emergency plans, and submit annual reports to the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS). SB 507 strengthens this existing process by requiring that these reports also include any instances where a public school facility became inaccessible to a student with a disability in a way that could impede evacuation or emergency response.

The reports will continue to be submitted to MCSS and may be shared with members of the General Assembly upon request. Otherwise, they remain confidential and are exempt from public disclosure under the Public Information Act (PIA). We worked closely with MCSS to develop this language, addressing their concerns while balancing accountability with school safety.

SB 507 has no fiscal impact, as MCSS can implement these requirements using existing resources. More importantly, this bill ensures that every student and their family can have confidence that their safety and accessibility needs are fully recognized, particularly in emergency situations.

I respectfully urge a **favorable report on Senate Bill 507**. Thank you for your consideration.