



Testimony On House Bill 293 - Favorable

HB0293 - Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center - External Data Sharing With Third-Party Data Centers for Multistate Reporting – Authorization

February 11th, 2026

The Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education (MAREE), a coalition of education advocacy, civil rights, and community-based organizations committed to eliminating racial disparities in Maryland’s education system, **offers favorable testimony in support of HB 293 - Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center - External Data Sharing With Third-Party Data Centers for Multistate Reporting - Authorization.**

MAREE was formed to bring Maryland closer to its goal of providing a world-class education to all students. Our coalition of over 30 organizations share a common belief in the brilliance of Black & Brown students, and the importance of ensuring that Maryland’s education system is responsive to their unique needs. **We stand in support of HB 293 because it will bring Maryland closer to this goal.**

The Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) is a critical component of our state’s education system, and the research it enables allows our educators, schools, and districts to better understand and meet the needs of Maryland’s students. HB293 expands researchers’ ability to utilize the MLDS for this purpose - enabling the MLDS Governing Board to partner with outside research organizations that share its same set of stringent data privacy requirements. This will lead to new insights regarding how Maryland can improve its education system - benefiting students, educators, educational leaders, and ultimately, our state as a whole.

In recent months, we have seen the federal government [gut the Institute for Educational Sciences](#), [de-emphasize](#) the need for data collection, and [de-fund](#) research focused on increasing educational equity. **In this environment, it has never been more critical to reaffirm Maryland’s commitment to collecting and analyzing student data, particularly disaggregated data, in order to generate actionable research that can be used to improve educational equity.**

However, in doing so Maryland must always prioritize students’ data privacy. MAREE is heartened to see the strong data privacy requirements included in HB293. In an era in which the Trump Administration continues to [weaponize data](#) to target communities of color, particularly Latino and immigrant communities, Maryland must continue to take measures that safeguard students against discrimination or targeting. The MLDS Governing Board has developed strict data privacy requirements to ensure students’ data is protected, and we are confident that the language outlined in this bill extends these privacy measures to any third party the Governing Board engages with.

Should this bill move forward, we encourage the Legislature to exercise its role as a monitor to ensure that these same requirements are adhered to in practice. Only then can our students feel safe in the knowledge that their data is being used to improve their educational experience and not weaponized for the priorities of politicians.

For these reasons, MAREE urges the House Ways and Means Committee to issue a **favorable report** on **HB 293**.

peace and truth,

sharlimar douglass

Education Justice Advocate & Analyst

Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education (MAREE)

MAREE Members:

Strong Schools Maryland