

Delegate Anne Kaiser
Chairman
House Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building Rm 131
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: HB 1407- Primary and Secondary Education Student Discipline
(Right to Teach Act)**

SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Kaiser and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1407.

In my opinion, this legislation is needed to protect teachers. No teacher should suffer physical or verbal abuse from a student.

I have taught for many years in Maryland's public schools. I know firsthand the harm to other students and teachers when disruptive students are either physically or verbally abusive.

When a student disrupts a class, he or she needs help to become socialized. Depending on the student's needs, schools could provide alternative classes taught by experienced teachers with help from aides, reading specialists, special educators, psychologists and social workers, as appropriate. Funding for these personnel is necessary, but schools need to account for such funding. With accountability, schools can seek additional support.

Taxpayers need to know where their tax dollars are going before additional dollars, such as those sought by the Kirwan legislation, can be justified.

Sincerely,

Gael Macnamara, Ph.D.

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