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Health and Government Operations Committee

Chair, St. Mary's County Delegation



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## THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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 2020) Sponsor Testimony

Dear Chairman Kaiser, and members of the Committee,
Thank you for the opportunity to present my bill HB 1407- Primary and Secondary Education- Student Discipline
(Right to Teach Act 2020)

The one constant concern that I have been hearing for years from both teachers and parents, it is the continued devolvement of discipline in the classroom. Teachers are being asked to teach in environments that are often chaotic, and with no tools to help them. Students are, at best, sitting in a classroom with no education happening, and at worst, being subjected to a potentially violent and out of control environment.

Every American child deserves an education, and I believe this to be a worthy standard to strive for, but this includes the right of the children who are there trying to receive an education. A student with a history of disruptions takes that right away from every other student in the class.

This legislation aims to put the teacher back in control of his or her classroom. Modeled after a long-standing successful program in Texas, the Right to Teach Act of 2020 would allow teachers to remove a student who has established patterns of disruptive and often violent behavior, from their classrooms. School administrators would NOT be allowed to return a student to that classroom without the approval of the teacher. The student would be placed in an alternate classroom environment.

This bill would return school classrooms back to an environment conducive to learning for the rest of the students who currently have to try to learn in violent and chaotic situations.

I believe that this is an important step to ensuring that all students have the opportunity to learn in an environment that is conducive to learning. I respectfully ask the committee to give HB 1407 a favorable report.

Thank you,

1. Mall Mogan Matt Morgan

Delegate