

March 4th 1:00 pm.

Dear Chairwoman Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington, and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Gia Grimm and I am a current third year student at University of Maryland Carey Law and I support HB 1536.

When I was in elementary school I reported a teacher for inappropriate touching. I reported to another trusted teacher. My trusted teacher took me to the Principal's office and I reported it again to the Principal. The administration's solution was to have a meeting between me and the teacher that I reported. I was walked down to his classroom. I sat in his classroom and listened to him tell me that I misinterpreted his touch and that he was sorry.

My elementary school never told my parents that I had reported a teacher. I was not the only student who was touched by this teacher. However, as we all got older and moved onto middle school, he stayed. He taught countless children. He touched countless children. Everyone knew, but no one did anything about it.

About ten years later, in 2015, I ran into the teacher that I had reported. He looked me up and down and said "Gia Grimm, didn't you turn out pretty." I stood there frozen, I felt like I was 8 years old again. I couldn't speak. I had lost my voice.

But, it's *now* 2020 and I have reclaimed my voice.

The lack of uniformity, transparency, and accountability of current Title IX sexual misconduct procedures and practices in K12 schools leave students vulnerable to sexual misconduct by teachers, staff, and administrators.

Our students need you, *legislators*, to provide them with the tools to be able to use their voices.

Our past does not define us, but it sure does motivates us. I urge you to give HB 1536 a favorable vote and Hear Our Voices.

Thank you.

What about false reporting? Privacy issue?

The point of this bill is to stop bad actors. Teachers still have due process.

This bill does not take away any of their rights. This does not strip teachers of their rights.

The purpose of this bill is to ensure children feel and are safe going forward.

This is not an adjudicatory process.

False reporting?

I can't speak to the filing of false reports. But what I do know is that I filed a real report and my voice was not heard.

Point is to stop bad actors. Teachers still have due process. Not taking away rights. Feel safe going forward. Not adjudicatory.

Logistics?

I am not a school expert. I leave the discretion to MSDE to figure out exactly how to structure the required policies and practices.