

MARY L. WASHINGTON, PH.D
Legislative District 43
Baltimore City

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee

Chair
Joint Committee on Ending
Homelessness

Chair
Joint Committee on Children,
Youth, and Families



Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 102
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3145 · 301-858-3145
800-492-7122 Ext. 3145
Mary.Washington@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SUPPORT – SB 437
Maryland Longitudinal Data System - Student Data - Pregnant and Parenting Students

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 25, 2021

Testimony of Senator Mary Washington

Chair Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully urge you to vote favorable on Senate Bill 437, which is a companion bill to SB438.

This bill adds a de-identified data marker for pregnant and parenting youth to the Maryland Longitudinal Data System in accordance with all predetermined privacy standards. This will allow school districts to specifically note pregnant and parenting status of students in order to record and track their educational outcomes. Data will be collected by school administrators and remain anonymous in the database system, ensuring the privacy of these youth in accurate data collection methods.

SB437 will help inform policy decisions that identify and address large gaps in educational equity and economic security. It will also analyze the long-term successes and challenges of parenting students to ensure that these students can achieve their desired educational outcomes and achieve a higher standard of living.

For these reasons, I ask you for a favorable report on SB437.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Washington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" and last name "Washington" clearly legible.

Senator Mary Washington, District 43, Baltimore City