



**Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director**

**BILL:** Senate Bill 470 – Institute for Innovation and Implementation – Pregnant, Expecting, and Parenting Students - Data Collection and Report  
**DATE:** February 25, 2021  
**POSITION:** **Oppose**  
**COMMITTEE:** Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
**CONTACT:** Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director

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This bill requires five specified local boards of education (Charles, Prince George’s, Washington, and Wicomico counties and Baltimore City) to collect, track, and submit to the Institute for Innovation and Implementation (‘the Institute’) in the University of Maryland School of Social Work (UM SSW) specified information about pregnant, expecting, and parenting students by June 1, 2022, and each June 1 thereafter. The Institute must (1) analyze the data; (2) document and evaluate the professional development activities of each local school system related to pregnant, expecting, and parenting students; and (3) document and evaluate policy changes related to pregnant, expecting, and parenting students from each local school system. The Institute must use this information to develop recommendations for the General Assembly, with an interim report due by June 30, 2023, and a final report due by June 30, 2025.

The Public Schools Superintendents’ Association of Maryland (PSSAM) opposes Senate Bill 470.

PSSAM appreciates the legislation’s intention to collect data in order to more effectively serve pregnant and parenting students. However, we believe a legislative approach is not needed and is not the appropriate way to collect this information. Unfortunately, the five counties named in this bill were never contacted regarding their interest or ability to fulfill the bill’s requirements. If they had been involved, they may have been able to provide information on what information is and is not available. For instance, school systems can track data on students that ultimately graduate who have been or are pregnant or parenting. However, systems cannot track students enrolled in a GED program because they must withdraw from their local school system. There was no outreach requesting our ability to collect and analyze the data requested and further develop and implement an appropriate professional development program. There are many systems who are currently providing unique and innovative services to students through their pregnancy and post-natal. We encourage the Institute to meet and consult with individual LEAs to see who may be interested in such a partnership, but without a legislative mandate.

*One Voice, One Vision for Maryland’s Students*

For those reasons stated above, PSSAM opposes SB 470 and requests an unfavorable committee report.