



**Maryland's Voice for  
Nonpublic Education**

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# SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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## SENATE BILL 827

### NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS – ADEQUATE HEALTH SERVICES – ELIGIBILITY FOR REIMBURSEMENT

### SUPPORT

Maryland CAPE is our state's chapter and one of 40 state chapters of the Council for American Private Education. Our network includes the Catholic, Christian, Evangelical Lutheran, Friends, Independent, Jewish, Lutheran, Montessori, Muslim, and Seventh Day Adventist school communities. We speak on behalf of roughly 120,000 nonpublic school students attending over one thousand nonpublic schools across our great state of Maryland.

The primary financial source available to maintain most nonpublic schools is its tuition. It is needless to say, that the tuition and other educational fees that schools ask from their parent body are bordering exorbitant even in schools catering to a lower income population. Even families earning a respectable income find themselves struggling to meet their budgets without going into debt. Schools are forced to forgo or significantly limit the amount they allocate for critical areas of its operations.

Having a medical presence in a school and having medical supplies available to treat students with any type of ailment is indeed a must. The costs to cover a school's medical budget is indeed a worthy investment for county governments whether the schools are public or nonpublic, as children are worthy of the same access to medical attention regardless of where they are educated.

Senate Bill 827 will provide a reimbursement from the county government for up to 50% of adequate health services in an eligible nonpublic school in its jurisdiction.

While this bill will only take effect at the conclusion of the COVID-impacted 20-21 school year, countless schools who have been gone to great lengths to provide in-person instruction, have undertaken a more robust medical offering in their schools. The funds provided through this worthy bill will ensure that health services and supplies are always available to protect the children while in school in the future.

**Thank you for your support of SB 827 and we urge a favorable report.**