PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

14201 School Lane, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Title:	Education - Student-Organized Peaceful Demonstrations - Student Discipline and Policy		
Bill Number:	**House Bill 753**	**Position:**	**Favorable**
Hearing Date:	April 1, 2021		
Committee:	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs		
Contact:	Erica M. White, Esq. – (301) 952-6048		

As amended, House Bill 753 bars a public school from, under specified conditions, prohibiting a student from organizing or participating in a student-organized peaceful demonstration; imposing limits that substantially inhibit a student's right to free speech while participating in a student-organized peaceful demonstration; and disciplining a student for organizing or participating in a student-organized demonstration. A school may impose reasonable limitations on the time and place of a student-organized peaceful demonstration to minimize disruptions and protect the health, safety, and welfare of students and school personnel.

The Prince George's County Board of Education is committed to providing an educational system which enables students to constructively express their rights to speech and assembly. The Board believes that defined methods that foster student activism in the school setting is conducive to the development of students as informed and engaged members of society. The Board also believes in effective student voice practices, which are designed to elevate student activism and participation through civil discourse.

House Bill 753 will encourage constructive methods of freedom of expression that will engage the student body population in a way that is fair, equitable, and consistent.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB 753. Thank you for your consideration.