



**Mr. Jonathon DiPietro**, Director  
**Mr. Hunter Craig**, Assistance Director  
**Mr. Christopher Lidard**, Outreach Coordinator  
**Ms. Lauren Raskin**, Outreach Coordinator

---

**BILL:** **HB1166 - Education - Physical Restraint and Seclusion - Reporting and Training**

**SPONSOR:** **Delegate Eric Ebersole**

**POSITION:** **FAVORABLE**

---

Friday, March 26, 2021

### **HB 1166**

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee. We are writing in favor of House Bill 1166.

The Maryland Student Coalition supports any efforts that advance positive behavioral intervention practices and improve the professional infrastructure that allows educators to utilize these practices. The uses of seclusion and restraint have been proven to be cruel and unnecessary forms of punishment and/or classroom management that are often ineffective in nearly all situations. Especially since other institutions such as private schools are already prohibited from these practices, it is imperative that Maryland's public schools come to alignment. Moreover, the bill's provisions that put effort behind training, reporting, and analysis of data show a bold commitment to the proper implementation of such an important policy.

As an organization made up of current high school students, our members have witnessed a revolution in restorative discipline and behavioral intervention since our entrance into Maryland's public schools. This bill continues that trend of removing archaic and harmful practices in favor of strategies that respect the dignity of every single student. Students with disabilities and learning challenges, often the students in most need of positive support, are the most affected by this bill, and will benefit the most from its passage. It is time for Maryland to join the movement towards more humane intervention discipline practices in our schools.

For the reasons stated above, we urge the committee to issue a favorable report on HB1166.