

**ERIC EBERSOLE**  
*Legislative District 12*  
Baltimore and Howard Counties

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Ways and Means Committee

*Chair*  
Early Childhood Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 305  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3328 · 301-858-3328  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3328  
Eric.Ebersole@house.state.md.us

**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Chair Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington, and the members of the Ways and Means Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 753 – Student Organized Peaceful Demonstrations

In my time as a teacher, I have been consistently impressed with the maturity and awareness of the students that I taught. They are not only in tune with the policies and issues of the day, many of them are eager to participate actively in establishing and influencing policy. One way for them to do this is through peaceful and productive demonstration. It is important in the school setting that they understand the parameters both for themselves and for the school setting while experiencing the opportunity.

This legislation will help to clarify to students, in a consistent and predictable manner, the way for them to be able to demonstrate and express themselves, helping to clear the way for them to do just that. It will establish basic guidelines to protect the educational setting for instruction as well.

Each local school system will be required to establish a demonstration policy for students that would allow students to experience a predictable set of rules in arranging and carrying out a demonstration on school property or at a school event.

Among the major points that must be honored in such a policy are:

- A definition of what would be a peaceful student demonstration as well as what would not be
- Protections of health, safety, and welfare of students and school personnel in authorizing demonstrations
- Conditions students must adhere to in terms of notification and school disruption
- Protections against excessive or unnecessary punishment of students.

Specifically the policy shall contain guidelines for

- Times and places and manner of expression for demonstrations
- Limitations on language that has the intent to harass, threaten or intimidate others

I urge the committee to give this legislation, and students across Maryland, a favorable report.

*Eric D. Ebersole*