



February, 28 2021

Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD. 21401

House Ways and Means Committee

**In Support of HB 1322: Primary and Secondary Education; Prohibition Against Retaliating Against Teachers, and School Personnel for not returning to work, in-person.**

Good day members of the House Ways and Means Committee.

We fully support our teachers and school staff members during these very difficult times.

We also respect a teacher's/school staff member's rights to protect themselves, and their family members, by choosing not to return in person to school buildings in 2020-2021.

We do not support MSDE, local school boards, or school systems mandating that teachers/school staff return to work. Many school systems still lack adequate funding, and clear planning to put students and teachers/staff safely back inside school buildings, during the worldwide health crisis of Covid-19. And for many, they have not been vaccinated, and vaccines remain in short supply all over the state and Delmarva Region.

Many in our community feel that teachers and staff need the freedom to make the decisions that is best for themselves, and for their family members. They should not be forced to choose between protecting their families, and protecting their teaching / school staff jobs.

Please protect them from suffering any repercussions, or retaliation for simply making the decision to protect themselves, and their families, by staying out of school buildings until it is safe to return.

Please support HB 1322 and return a favorable report.

Thank you for your time, and for considering my testimony today.

Mr. Richard Ceruolo  
Parent and advocate for persons living with disabilities.  
Parent Advocacy Consortium