

February 10, 2021

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

**In Support of HB 753: Education – Students - Peaceful Student Demonstrations – School Discipline Policy.**

Members of the House Ways and Means Committee.

As a voter, parent, engaged citizen and frequent attendee at governmental proceedings at all levels of government, I fully support the changes contained within this bill.

What better way to teach our students about Democracy? What better way to show them that it requires all of us to be engaged, and to participate in our government? What better way to show students that their voices matter and are important?

Let's not let them tune out. In an age where students are living a lot of their lives online, they can still protest, they can still have a voice in government. That they can be engaged in their community. They are the future, let's find more creative ways to involve and engage them in our democratic process.

Students have shown that they can protest peacefully and safely during the "March for our Lives" and "Black Lives Matter" protests. Students have shown up, and made a difference for themselves, and for others. It can be done.

We fully support any bill that brings more efforts to promote social justice, and political engagement in our students. They are the future voters and the future agents of change in our democracy.

Please return a favorable report for HB 753.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of my testimony today.

Mr. Richard Ceruolo  
Parent and Advocate for meaningful, systemic changes to our education system.