



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Delegate Dana Jones
Before the Ways and Means Committee**

**In Support of HB1062
Education - Student Data Privacy -
Reports and Student Data Privacy Council Sunset Extension
February 24, 2021, 1:30pm**

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

I come before you today to introduce HB1062, which codifies the recommendations outlined in the Student Data Privacy Council's 2020 report and creates a reporting requirement to increase transparency and accountability.

The bill updates definitions based on the council's recommendations to keep up with current technological advancements. The bill also creates a reporting requirement for schools to ensure transparency in which digital tools are being used. Knowing which digital tools are being used by teachers and administrators is an essential first step in securing our students' personal information. It allows us to assess each provider's terms of use and privacy procedures and make sure they are in compliance with Maryland's Student Data Privacy Act of 2015. This critical issue is a national priority which has been underscored by the pandemic. The Council found that "since 2013, over 130 new state student privacy laws have been passed, and over one thousand bills were introduced on the topic in all 50 states."¹

The bill also extends the Council for an additional four years to help implement the recommendations and continue to study the best practices for student data privacy protection. Protecting the personal information of our students, parents, teachers, and staff is a continually evolving issue. The COVID-19 pandemic has only exaggerated Student data privacy concerns as many schools make the switch to remote or hybrid learning environments. According to a national study done by LearnPlatform, on average, school districts have increased their ed-tech tool usage in 2020 by nearly 90 percent from just the previous academic year². As teachers

¹ [Student Privacy Compass, State Student Privacy Laws](#)

² [Number of Ed-Tech Tools in Use Has Jumped 90 Percent Since School Closures](#)

continue to utilize new digital programs to enhance their lessons, it is essential that the companies providing these tools are taking reasonable precautions to protect sensitive data.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on this bill.

Delegate Dana Jones

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana Jones" with a stylized flourish at the end.