

I urge you to vote against HB1322. One major problem is that it fails to define “caretaker” (line 22) and therefore would give teachers the freedom to choose to refuse to return to the classroom if, for example, they simply visit an elderly aunt on the weekends.

We’ve already seen ample evidence that Maryland’s teachers are reluctant to return to the classroom. We are DEAD LAST in the nation in opening schools. Here it is, color-coded:
<https://cai.burbio.com/school-opening-tracker/>

If we give teachers legal means to choose not to return, we should expect many to do so. The way they’ve behaved the past 10 months is a reliable indication of how they’ll behave in the future.

Clearly, our schools have not been too hasty in forcing teachers back to unsafe environments. (Again, MARYLAND IS DEAD LAST.) Clearly, the needs of our teachers have been elevated above those of Maryland’s children, and our teachers therefore don't require additional legal protections.

We have an entire year of data to prove that virtual learning is disgustingly inferior. Record numbers of children are failing classes or simply disappearing from the system. We’ve seen increased suicide, depression, and anxiety. Even the teachers’ unions don’t deny that virtual learning is vastly inferior. So why should they be granted the right to continue teaching remotely, even in defiance of their local school boards?

They shouldn’t.

Teachers ought to be bound by the decisions the school boards make with regards to the timing and structure of in-person learning.

Furthermore, if we grant teachers the legal right to select where they work from, why not other employees? School bus drivers, State Police, nurses, The State Highway Administration?

No. Of course, we wouldn't do that. It's impossible for those jobs to be done remotely. Just like it's impossible for teaching to be done effectively remotely. (And that’s not because our teachers haven’t tried valiantly to make it successful.)

For the record, I’ve already given up on BCPS and have enrolled my children in private school. I’m fighting now for the good of my friends’ and neighbors’ children and for what is just and moral. Kids need to be in schools. There’s plentiful evidence that it can be done safely. Enough roadblocks and delays. I urge you to vote against HB1322 and put the needs of Maryland’s children ahead of deep-pocketed special interests.