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Legislative District 43
Baltimore City

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee

Chair
Joint Committee on Ending
Homelessness

Chair
Joint Committee on Children,
Youth, and Families



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SB 519 – Education - Student-Organized Peaceful Demonstrations –
Student Discipline and Policy

February 16, 2022

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the EHE,

SB 519 protects the rights of students to demonstrate on school grounds without fear of criminal consequence. It is vital to Democracy in our State to recognize the importance of peaceful demonstration, and its role in providing an important educational experience in civic responsibility.

SB 519 restricts a public school from prohibiting a student from organizing a peaceful protest or participating in a student-organized peaceful demonstration.

The bill also imposes certain limits on a student's activities while participating in a student-organized, peaceful demonstration, or disciplining of a student for organizing or participating in a student-organized peaceful demonstration under certain circumstances.

SB 519 requires that each county board of education develop a written policy regarding student-organized peaceful demonstrations.

Maryland schools should not prohibit student-organized peaceful demonstrations but could impose reasonable limitations on the time and place in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of students and school personnel, and minimize disruption to the educational environment.

The priorities of this bill are to recognize and protect the legacy of increasing student activism and the important role student demonstrations have in allowing the next generation of leaders to express their views on societal issues and injustices.

I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 519.

In Partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mary Washington'.

Senator Mary Washington
Maryland 43rd District