

SB0007 FAVORABLE

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7

I'm requesting that the Education, Health & Environmental Affairs provide this joint resolution with a FAVORABLE response.

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION A Senate Joint Resolution concerning Support of Parents' Rights to Bring Grievances to County Boards of Education FOR the purpose of supporting parents' rights to peacefully assemble, speak freely, and petition the government, including county boards of education, on any topic; condemning intimidation of a parent who is expressing these rights; and generally relating to support of parents' rights to bring grievances to county boards of education. WHEREAS, The First Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees, in part, "the right of the people to peacefully assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances"; and WHEREAS, The national grassroots interest being shown by parents is to be commended and encouraged; and WHEREAS, Parents of children in school have the right to peacefully express their opinions about what is being taught in the classroom; and WHEREAS, Violence and threats of violence at county board of education meetings have been isolated and dealt with appropriately by local law enforcement; and WHEREAS, Federal, state, and local governments should not have the ability to stifle protected speech; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General Assembly supports the rights of parents to peacefully assemble, speak freely, and petition the government, including county boards of education, on any topic while strongly condemning intimidation of a parent who is expressing these rights; and be it further RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to the Maryland Congressional Delegation; the Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland; the Honorable William C. Ferguson, IV, President of the Senate of Maryland; and the Honorable Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker of the House Delegates.