



February 1, 2022

Maryland Senate
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD. 21401

In Support of SB 119: Education – Crimes on School Grounds - Application

Members of the Maryland Senate’s EHE Committee.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1300 members and fully support revising the state’s education regulations around student conduct in schools and on school grounds.

Too often children with disabilities have their behavior misinterpreted as something other than communication to those around them. Sometimes teens act in ways that adults do not deem as being appropriate, and that leaves the door open to misinterpretation of those behaviors by school personnel.

These typical teen student behaviors are sometimes viewed through a criminal lens by school staff members, teachers, administrators and SROs. But school rules do not apply to all settings or environments that a student travels within. Only on school grounds, or while attending school sponsored events. Therefore, students should not be subjected to school discipline for events that transpire off of their school’s property. Punitive school discipline policies can threaten to take students off their educational track, and as a consequence limit the student’s future hopes of a successful career.

We trust that these changes will help to further support all Maryland students. The future success and health of all of our students depends on many necessary improvements and supports being in place, during these unusual times, as we begin the long tasks related to implementing the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. Thank you all for supporting the education, health and wellbeing of all Anne Arundel County students.

Please support Senate Bill 119 and return a favorable report. Thank you for your time, and for considering our testimony today.

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