



LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

The Maryland House of Delegates, 6 Bladen Street, Room 300, Annapolis, Maryland 21401
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February 2, 2022

Senator Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, EHE

Senator Cheryl C. Kagan
Vice Chair, EHE

Dear Chair Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland Inc. has voted to offer **favorable** support for SB 119- Education- Crimes on School Grounds- Application. **This bill is a 2022 legislative priority of the Black Caucus.**

Black and brown children are disproportionately charged under this law which ultimately contributes to the school to prison pipeline. The state of Maryland currently has the highest incarceration rate of black males between the ages of 18-24. According to 2020 data, 82% of children charged with disturbing school activities or personnel in Maryland were Black children and children of color. Because of implicit bias, people will often perceive behavior of Black children as more threatening compared to white children of the same age.

This legislation would amend a section of the Maryland Education Code that allows students to be charged with a misdemeanor crime if they "willfully disturb, or otherwise willfully prevent the orderly conduct of the activities, administration, or classes of any institution of elementary, secondary, or higher education" or "threaten" students or staff. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland supports SB 119.

Respectfully,

Darryl Barnes

Darryl Barnes
Chair, Legislative Black Caucus
of Maryland

Melissa Wells

Melissa Wells
1st Vice Chair, Legislative Black
Caucus of Maryland