

SJ7_AWaychoff_Fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Amy Waychoff

Position: FAV

SJ 7

Amy Waychoff

Favorable

Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Amy Waychoff and I have lived in Montgomery County for over 34 years. I am writing in support of SJ 7, Senate Joint Resolution: Support of Parents' Rights to Bring Grievances to County Boards of Education. This bill basically affirms the rights imbedded in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Furthermore, parents and not administrators or teachers have the primary responsibility for what is being taught to their children. During the last couple years, parents across the country have been expressing this belief at school board meetings, and they have done so peacefully. Any violence or threats of violence at these meetings have been isolated and dealt with appropriately by local law enforcement. Finally, federal, state, and local governments should not have the ability to stifle protected speech. This bill is necessary to ensure that our First Amendment rights at school board meetings are protected.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views.

Sincerely,

Amy Waychoff

Bethesda, MD

Maryland-Support-SJ7.pdf

Uploaded by: Jacquelin Zubko-Cunha

Position: FAV

SUPPORT SJ7

Dear Committee Members-

I am writing to ask for your support for SJ 7 Senate Joint Resolution: Support of Parents' Rights to Bring Grievances to County Boards of Education which will support parents' rights to peacefully assemble, speak freely, and petition the government, including county boards of education, on any topic; and condemning intimidation of a parent who is expressing these rights. Parents have every right to be informed about their children's education and voice and questions and concerns. Education should not be the sole responsibility of parents or public systems. This ensures a partnership and open lines of communication remain.

Thank you for your time. Jacquelin Zubko-Cunha (mother of 2, Gaithersburg, MD)

SchoolBdGrievancesSJ7testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Justin Ready

Position: FAV

JUSTIN READY
Legislative District 5
Carroll County

MINORITY WHIP

Finance Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 8, 2022

SJ 7 Support of Parents' Rights to Bring Grievances to County Boards of Education

Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the Environmental, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

This is a simple resolution that would have the General Assembly of Maryland recognize the important right of any parent to address their local school board - peacefully and in order of course - and not be kept from doing so by force - which would of course be unlawful - but also by subtle or over intimidation. It's not a new law, simply a strong statement of support. Last year we saw the Justice Department and Attorney General of the United States direct the FBI to look into disruptive parents as possible terror threats (a couple of news sources below). While it does appear that nothing eventually came of it after a big backlash, I think we should make it clear that we are on the side of open dialogue, transparency and accountability.

I urge a favorable on SJ 7.

[Partnership Among Federal, State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Law Enforcement to Address Threats Against School Administrators, Board Members, Teachers, and Staff \(justice.gov\)](#)

https://www.wsj.com/articles/about-those-domestic-terrorists-national-school-boards-association-merrick-garland-memo-fbi-11635285900?mod=article_inline

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2021/10/27/attorney-general-merrick-garland-school-board-investigation-violence/8564956002/>

<https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/judiciary-republicans-to-garland-are-concerned-parents-domestic-terrorists-or-not>

SJ7 Sponsor Witness Signup Form_2022 (2).pdf

Uploaded by: Justin Ready

Position: FAV

Senate Standing Committee
Sponsor Witness Form

This form must be emailed to the Committee Manager for the Committee hearing the bill. For bill hearings scheduled on or before February 11th by 10:00 am two (2) business days in advance of the scheduled bill hearing. For bill hearings beginning on February 14th by 10:00 am one (1) business day in advance of the scheduled bill hearing. Please include the date of the bill hearing and the bill number in the subject line.

Hearing Date: March 8, 2022

Bill Number: SJ 7

Lead Proponent Name: Jim Lehmann

Organization: Transparency FCPS

E-mail Address:

Phone Number:

Panelist Name:

Organization:

E-mail Address:

Phone Number:

Panelist Name:

Organization:

E-mail Address:

Phone Number:

Please also submit, along with this document:

- Any audio-visual presentation the sponsor wishes to show during his or her presentation.
- Any special requests for bill order. Please note, the Committee will do its best to accommodate requests.

Contact information for the Committee Managers:

Budget and Taxation: kim.landry@mlis.state.md.us

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SB0007 FAVORABLE Joint Resolution 3:8.pdf

Uploaded by: Linda Diefenbach

Position: FAV

SB0007 FAVORABLE

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7

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

Linda Diefenbach
6742 Deer Spring Ln.
Middletown, MD

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.

SJ7 favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Tina Belford

Position: FAV

I am in full support of SJ7, and I honestly have no idea why anyone would not be in support of this bill. Free speech and freedom of assembly are already part of our US Constitution. It should not need to also be spelled out in local legislation, however under the circumstances it does feel necessary to address the issue. Parents have had their voices slowly and unknowingly taken away over the past few decades. This has never been more apparent until schools shut down and parents were given a front row seat in their child's virtual classrooms. Since the introduction of the Common Core Curriculum, parents have basically been stripped of their ability to help their children with schoolwork "the way it is being taught in school". About five years ago, I was told by my child's First Grade teacher that I was not allowed to teach math "the old way", and that I "should not be helping with homework". That is an absolutely ridiculous notion. Parents should always be involved in the education of their children. I think it used to be an "unspoken rule", but apparently now it needs to be an established piece of legislature. Please pass SJ7 so parents can be as supportive of our childrens' education as we'd like to be.

SJ007 FAVORABLE vmcavoy.pdf

Uploaded by: vince mcavoy

Position: FAV

SJ007 FAVORABLE

vince mcavoy

As I testified in the House, the present regime in D.C. has declared a “war on parents”. This must end now.

Monied interests and lobbying groups – several of which haunt the doors of you lawmakers in a harassing manner – have grown used to being entitled & trusted. The trust in teachers’ unions and indoctrinators has been misplaced.

Parents have now seen how classrooms are mismanaged. The inappropriate materials. The indoctrination. The communist leanings of Maryland school teachers and of those around the country. The outright sexual grooming – google “I came ‘out’ to my class”.

Senator Ready’s balanced bill demands our state honor the rights of parents who are taking responsibility for their own children. There are parents who don’t leave their children at the steps of the school and assume everything will go well. When things don’t go well for students and when schools fail in the duty entrusted in them, parents have every right to be involved and demand change. Parents are the benefactors of their children. Their rights are NOT given by the State, they are given by God. It is merely the State’s duty to affirm these rights. First Amendment rights affirm assembly and freedom of speech. That speech is not regulated as to volume, content or political narrative, save where an immediate public safety issue arises (i.e. – yelling fire in a crowded movie theater). For the matter of free speech, it is very clear that some of Maryland’s school systems feel that police force is warranted for involved parents expressing concern about these radical teachers and the awful Boards of Education, but not for arsonists and destroyers. This imbalance must be fixed.

So vote in favor of Senator Ready’s resolution. Your duty is not to your party, your narratives or your political favoritism. Your duty is to the Constitution. It would also be helpful if you honored your constituents and their children....the normal ones.

Humbly presented

~vince