



**HB686 PUBLIC SCHOOLS – HEALTH AND SAFETY – CARBON DIOXIDE MONITORING IN CLASSROOMS (SAFE SCHOOL INDOOR AIR ACT)**

February 25, 2022

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

**OPPOSE**

Jeanette Ortiz, Esq., Legislative & Policy Counsel (410.703.5352)

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB686 Public Schools – Health and Safety – Carbon Dioxide Monitoring in Classrooms (Safe School Indoor Air Act)**. This bill establishes the Safe School Indoor Air Program in the Maryland Department of the Environment to improve indoor air quality in public school classrooms. It requires the Department, in consultation with the MSDE, to administer the Program. The bill also requires public schools to monitor carbon dioxide levels in each classroom in a school at least twice each school year as well as specified remediation measures. A county board of education is required to develop a certain policy and implementation plan.

While AACPS clearly supports the establishment and maintenance of safe and conducive learning environments, HB686 would create an overly complex and extremely expensive unfunded testing and remediation mandate for local school systems. AACPS anticipates that this legislation would cost the school system more than \$2 million in inspection fees alone, as well as an untold hundreds of millions – if not billions – of dollars in potential remediation costs given our 14 million square feet of infrastructure. AACPS opposes unfunded mandates. It is also important to note that any imposed unfunded mandate of this significant magnitude would severely detract from the total available funds used to support educational equity in our school system.

Finally, many of the environmental provisions identified in the proposed legislation are already adequately regulated by other provisions in local, State, or federal laws with which AACPS already complies.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB686.