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Judiciary Committee



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The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 4, 2022

HB 1338- Face Mask Requirements- Prohibition

Madam Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk, and members of the HGO committee,

I come before you today to present House Bill 1338 and ask for you to give it a favorable report.

The purpose of this legislation is to prohibit a State or local elected official, governmental entity, or other person from requiring an individual to wear a certain face mask as a condition of entry into certain places or receiving certain goods, services, or education, except under certain circumstances; and generally relating to requirements to wear face masks. This type of mandate would be especially problematic for children.

According to the CDC's update as of January 28th, 2022, NIOSH-approved respirators (such as N95s) have not been tested for broad use on children. N95 masks have been designed for adult use, primarily in work spaces, and therefore their effectiveness on children (especially as a result of fit and seal) is questionable. Children should not be required to wear N95 masks when their efficacy is in question. Any mandates requiring children to wear N95 masks would result in difficulty and discomfort for children without any evidence to suggest that it would ensure their safety or the safety of others.

This legislation does not apply to medical personnel or a first responder while treating patients or for protection from occupational hazards.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill, and I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 1338.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lauren Arikan".

Delegate Lauren Arikan