

March 7, 2022

Chair Delegate Atterbeary, Vice Chair Delegate Washington, and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

The Baltimore County Parent and Student Coalition, Inc. is writing **in favor** of HB 1145 Student Behavior-Parent Notice and Required Counseling (Parent Accountability Act).

Schools in Maryland were closed for in-person learning longer than most all of the other states in the nation. When our children returned to school in August of 2021, school administrators and local law enforcement offices have described an “uptick” in behavioral issues and incidents of violence in schools, on school grounds, and on school buses. Mental health providers and the Academy of Pediatrics has declared a mental health crisis in our youth. These are difficult times for our children.

We support HB 1145 because it will:

- establish that it is unlawful for a parent or guardian of a student in a public school to fail to seek and participate in counseling with their child after receiving notice of violent and disruptive behavior
- require a public-school principal to provide written notice to the parent or guardian of a student who engages in two or more number of incidents of violent and disruptive behavior in a public school during the school year

We appreciate the intent of this bill to address and help resolve some of the bullying, disruptive, and dangerous behavior that occurs every day in our public schools.

Passing this bill will allow for a stronger partnership between schools and parents which will strengthen our school communities and provide a greater path towards success for our students.

Sincerely,

Amy Adams, BCPASC President

