

**Ellen A. Callegary, Esq.**

**The Law Offices of Ellen A. Callegary, P.A.  
HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

**HOUSE BILL 226: PUBLIC SCHOOLS—SELF-CONTAINED SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSROOM—USE OF  
VIDEO RECORDING DEVICES**

**FEBRUARY 3, 2022**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

The attorneys in The Law Offices of Ellen A. Callegary, P.A. represent students with disabilities throughout Maryland. For over forty years, I have worked to protect the most vulnerable members of our community --- children and adults with disabilities. Beginning with my time as an Assistant Attorney General in Maryland in 1979 and continuing through today as a private attorney working on their behalf. Because of my concern with education policy for students with disabilities in Maryland, I submit this testimony in support of House Bill 226, which would require the installation of video cameras in at least 50% of self-contained special education classrooms by the beginning of the 2022-23 school year and 100% of self-contained special education classrooms by the beginning of the 2023-24 school year.

As private attorneys, we represent families and their children who have shared their horror when their child has come home from school with unexplained injuries. Some of these injuries have included bruises, broken bones and burns. Many of our clients do not have the communication skills to let their parents know what happened during their school day. Personally, I have family members with disabilities who have difficulty communicating their wants and needs because of their disabilities. If these families had access to video footage, it would enable them to understand what may have occurred during their child's school day. They could then work with school staff members to address and hopefully prevent future injuries. As advocates for students with disabilities throughout Maryland, a subset of whom are educated in self-contained special education classrooms, we strongly support House Bill 226.