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Education – Reportable Offenses and Student Discipline – Alterations
Presented to the Honorable David Moon, the Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary and the Ways and Means Committee

February 3, 2022

POSITION: SUPPORT

Testimony of Youth As Resources

Youth As Resources strongly supports HB 146 introduced by Delegate David Moon and Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary. We urge the House Ways and Means Committee to issue a favorable report on this bill.

Maryland's reportable offense law is out-of-line with the vast majority of states that have one. Current law makes it much easier for schools to remove students if they are arrested in the community.

Many states do not allow removal from school for a reportable offense, or limit removal to circumstances where the student's presence in school poses a serious threat. In Maryland, there are virtually no limitations on schools' authority to remove students for reportable offenses.

Youth As Resources supports HB 146 because it limits the school systems' authority in removing a student. The bill will hold the school system accountable if they remove a student for unjustified reasons or in a disproportionate way.

Youth As Resources (YAR) Youth As Resources, (YAR) is a youth-led grantmaking, community organizing and leadership development non-profit organization. We provide the funding, training, and support to Baltimore youth to develop strategies that address our critical issues and positively impact the community. We are governed by a Board of Directors currently comprised of 20 youth and young adults (ages 14-24), The Board adopts an issue organizing and advocacy agenda each year. School police accountability, school climate, disability awareness,

mental health and supporting efforts around youth homelessness are our priorities for direct organizing and youth leadership. We train and support an average of 500 of our peers each year as organizers, leaders, and strategic planners.

We choose to support this bill because it directly impacts ourselves and our peers. We are all young people of color in Baltimore City. We attend Baltimore City Schools or are recent graduates. We want the best for ourselves, and peers and we should get treated fairly. The current removable offense policy does more to speed up the school-to-prison pipeline than keep us safe.

For these reasons, Youth As Resources strongly supports HB146 and urges the Committee to issue a favorable report.