

MICHELE GUYTON
Legislative District 42B
Baltimore County

Ways and Means Committee
Early Childhood Subcommittee
Education Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 3, 2022

FAVORABLE

HB226 Public schools-Self-contained special education classrooms-Use of video recordings

Dear Madame Chair and colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing to request your consideration of HB226 which gives us the opportunity to protect our most vulnerable children. HB226 requires the installation of cameras in self-contained special education classrooms with non-verbal students. I have worked with advocates, teachers and the States Attorney's Office to refine the language of this bill over the interim.

HB 226 has a dual purpose. The bill ensure the safety of vulnerable students but also protect teachers from allegations of abuse that are difficult to prove or disprove. New language ensure that concerns about access to the video and confidentiality have been addressed and the bill guarantees that the video will not be monitored without cause and will not be used for teacher evaluation.

This Body has prioritized protection of vulnerable populations for many years with our investment and requirements regarding police body cameras. In 2021 alone, we spent 32.4 million dollars on this important initiative to protect the public. HB226 is certainly consistent with these priorities and much less expensive.

In the past three years that the public (our constituents) have come to this committee begging us to protect children who cannot speak for themselves, there have been thousands of incidences of alleged abuse that might have been avoided.

I respectfully ask that you give a favorable report to HB226.

Thank you,

Delegate Michele Guyton D42B

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delegate Michele Guyton".