

Delegate Vanessa E Atterbeary, Chair
And Members of The Ways and Means Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: HB 495- Education- Student-Organized Peaceful Demonstrations- **OPPOSE**

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of The Committee,

Students, of all grade levels, especially since the existence of COVID-19, are struggling to maintain passing grades due to health regulations surrounding COVID and teachers are struggling to get them to benchmark. Allowing student-organized demonstrations, no matter how peaceful, during school operational hours creates another distraction from their academic instruction that they cannot afford. Although all voices should be heard, not all areas of disagreement or conflict requires a peaceful demonstration and (adult) discretion should direct the circumstance.

In addition, most people's brain does not fully mature until age 25. Therefore, students, even in high school, are not capable of thoroughly thinking through the cognitive process to a reasonable end. Leaving this type of action to the discretion, organization, and performance thereof, to the students is a recipe for disaster.

Please vote an UNFAVORABLE report for HB 495- Education- Student-Organized Peaceful Demonstrations.

Thank you for your time,
Sarah Price
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