

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Testimony to the Ways & Means Committee

In support of

House Bill 769: Student Data Privacy - Protections, Digital Tools, and Student Data Privacy Council

February 24, 2022

Strong Schools Maryland urges a favorable vote on House Bill 769: Student Data Privacy - Protections, Digital Tools, and Student Data Privacy Council.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future envisions a world-class system of public schools for our state's students and recognizes that we don't yet know what it will take to produce graduates equipped to thrive in postsecondary education or career. It does use what we know now—that the world and economy will change—to enable us to adapt flexibly if and when we need to in the future.

House Bill 769 is similarly forward-thinking. The bill:

- Seeks to protect the vulnerable information about our students, their learning, and potentially identifiable geographic or economic information we may not fully understand the need to protect just yet.
- Takes the common-sense steps modeled by California (2016), Texas (2019), New York (2020), and Illinois (2021) have taken.
- Supports Maryland's compliance with and building from the federal K-12 Cybersecurity Act to support generations of students as our public schools continue to transition into the 21st century.

The late, great Elijah E. Cummings was fond of saying “*...our children are the living messengers we send to a future we will never see...so, we want to send them to that future healthy, strong, vibrant, and with their destinies in their own control*”. We want that for our children too, so Strong Schools Maryland urges a favorable report on House Bill 457.

If you have questions or requests for additional information, you can email:

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