

January 30, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of House Bill 226 which would require each Board of Education in Maryland to install video cameras in all Special Education classrooms. I feel it is critical to implement this law in order to protect special education students and give their parents a way to receive answers when they believe an adverse incident has affected their child. I worked as a Special Educational Assistant for 13 years with Frederick County Public Schools. During that time, I was assigned to work for 5 months in a class with all Special Education students. I observed numerous egregious actions towards these students. It ranged from verbal abuse, physical abuse, taunting and racial slurs. This behavior was brought to the attention of the principal, Child Protective Services, the Sheriff's Department, and Frederick County Public Schools Accountability Department. Unfortunately nothing was done except to move this teacher from school to school. This particular teacher is currently assigned to work one on one with Special Education students. If a camera were in the room, perhaps this would not have occurred. At the very least, it would have been seen that it did occur. Thank you for considering this bill which would protect children who are unable to defend or protect themselves.

Sincerely,

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