

# MARYLAND STUDENT COALITION

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## TESTIMONY

**BILL:** House Bill (HB) 23 - School Discipline - Data Collection and School Resource Officers

**SPONSOR:** Delegate Washington, *Prince George's County (22)*

**POSITION:** **FAVORABLE**

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Monday, January 17, 2022

### HB 23: Favorable

*The Maryland Student Coalition is an entirely student-led, advocacy group that serves to bring students together to promote education policy reform. Founded in 2020 as a vehicle for advocating for students' right to demonstrate, our scope has since expanded to include more educational advocacy initiatives. You can learn more at [marylandstudents.org](http://marylandstudents.org)*

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Washington, and honorable members of the Ways and Means Committee. We are writing in favor of House Bill 23.

House Bill (HB) 23, School Discipline - Data Collection and School Resource Officers, will increase transparency around the application of discipline within public schools, by enhancing data collection and access.

Last year, the Maryland Office of the Public Defender testified in favor of this legislation, noting that:

*"Black students were the only racial group arrested at a higher rate than their proportion of school enrollment at the state level and across districts...additionally, almost one-third of students arrested received some type of special education, despite students with disabilities comprising only 12% of Maryland's public school enrollment"*

HB 23 closes a gap in reporting requirements and encourages accountability for the use of punitive and exclusionary practices. School system policies and practices that handle student discipline are a

fundamental factor in addressing the future opportunities of students, particularly students from low-income and historically underserved populations. Student discipline policy's effect on the educational experiences of students, further explains why data about disciplinary actions should be transparent, reasonably detailed, and accessible to policymakers, researchers, educators, and the public.

The Maryland Student Coalition supports the principles within the legislation and strongly encourages issuing a **favorable** report on HB 23.