

February 1, 2022

**SUPPORT: HB0226**

**Public Schools – Self-Contained Special Education Classroom – Use of Video Recording Devices**

Thank you for your consideration of HB 226 which requires the installation of cameras in self-contained special education classrooms in Maryland public schools. Self-contained special education classrooms are those which often include students who are non-verbal or have significant communication challenges.

Many Maryland schools already use video surveillance in other areas throughout the school building to ensure student and staff safety. This legislation will ensure that if an incident happens inside a self-contained classroom, an investigation can be properly conducted to protect our most vulnerable students who may not be able to communicate what they experienced. It will also serve to protect teachers from allegations of abuse that are difficult to prove or disprove. This is a matter of safety for everyone inside these classrooms.

I request a favorable report on HB 226.

Respectfully,

Beth Ann Hancock  
Upper Marlboro, MD