



Feb 23, 2023

Maryland Senate
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD. 21401

Testimony, In Support for SB 812: Higher Education - Discipline Records – Admissions and Discipline Process and Proceedings

Good afternoon members of Senate’s EEE Committee.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1500 members and fully support students with disabilities.

If we are to realize all that the Blueprint has to offer all of our children, we cannot continue to punish children that struggle with incomplete or inconsistent education plan implementation inside of their school buildings. These inconsistencies often cause the behaviors that are flagged and punished by school system personnel and school SROs leaving our children with criminal records when they are matriculating from elementary, middle and into high school settings.

Black and brown students, and those with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by the Discipline practices in school buildings that occur every day, all across our state and involve students from all socioeconomic and demographic groups. We don’t believe that it is fair or equitable for this kind of discipline data and reporting should follow a student as they transition into their next phase of their education, as they explore college and career opportunities. These practices have been shown to be detrimental to the growth, development and overall mental and physical health of students. And should not follow them and continue to punish them into the next phases of their lives.

Please return a favorable report on SB 812 so that students like our children with disabilities can move on with their academic and career training as we prepare them for the next steps of their lives, and for all students across the entire state of Maryland.

Thank you for considering our testimony in support of SB 812.

Mr. Richard Ceruolo | richceruolo@gmail.com
Parent, Lead Advocate and Director of Public Policy
Parent Advocacy Consortium (Find us on Facebook/Meta) |
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ParentAdvocacyConsortium>