



April 3, 2023

Maryland Senate
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD. 21401

In Support of HB 320: MLDS – Definition of Student Data - Alteration

Members of the Maryland Senate's EEE Committee.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1500 members fully support this effort to alter and enhance the student data that is currently being collected regarding student performance. Student progress monitoring and data collecting has been a hot button issue as we embark on the early stages of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future's education reforms and oversight measures. This bill helps to bring enhanced transparency to facts that have long been hidden from view.

HB 320 truly works to fix a system that has worked to marginalize students with a variety of learning differences and disabilities. For decades, any family member, student advocate, or attorney fighting on behalf of a student's civil rights to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), they had to place a FOIA / MPIA request with their local education agency, or possibly with the state's department of education. These requests can take weeks and even months to fulfill. The families of Students with disabilities can't wait that long to check and see how they are performing compared to their non disabled peers. This data needs to be timely and easily accessible, not hidden within layers of reports and lost within requests for student progress data.

These data points are important, should be disaggregated and made available to the educators, students, parent, education stakeholders, local and state board of education members, and the state and local school superintendents of our education system.

As part of the Maryland Blueprint's education and transparency reforms, stakeholders should know how each and every population of student is performing, statewide, and at every level of our state's education system. All students! Because the Maryland Blueprint is here to service all students and to bring equity and inclusion to an education system that has had many troubles in these areas.

We ask the committee to return a favorable report and support data collection and transparency efforts today and into the future of the Blueprint Law. Please return a favorable report in support of our children with disabilities. Thank you for your time, and for considering our testimony today.

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