



February 24, 2023

Maryland Senate  
11 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD. 21401

**In Support of SB 388 / HB 265: Public Schools – Standardize Health Screening for Students – Development and Implementation.**

Members of the Maryland Senate’s Education, Energy and Environment Committee.

Our 1500 plus membership of families supports this bill, and the establishment of standardizing Health Screening Forms and the process of collecting data from families when they enroll their children in school. And then taking that data, sharing it across local and state agencies in order to enroll the student into services and programs to help support the student and their family.

What a great idea to help increase equity and inclusion in schools for families of children that require the wrap around supports and services included within the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. Giving families a standard form to fill out that enables them to self-identify their student/child as potentially needing some form of help, services or other assistance.

When this information is voluntarily provided by the family enrolling their student, that form should then automatically trigger a variety of support services to be enacted on behalf of the student and their entire family, automatically enrolling them into a variety of wrap around support services contained within the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future.

After the events of the past 3 plus years of the pandemic, we well as the recent NAEP and MCAP scores showing Maryland students failing in math and reading and English we need to do better for our kids. Now more than ever, we all need supports and services to help our children be more successful in life as well as in school. Getting back to normal is going to take all of us acting in concert to support our students the most in need of services, mental health services, counseling and social supports.

Please return a favorable report on SB 388 / HB 265 in order to provide services and supports to families all across the state of Maryland. Thank you for your time and consideration of our testimony.

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Parent, Lead Advocate and Director of Public Policy

Parent Advocacy Consortium: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ParentAdvocacyConsortium>