

**Testimony in Opposition of House Bill 203
Education – Reporting Arrests of Students – Alterations**

**Judiciary Committee
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The Maryland State Education Association opposes House Bill 203. This bill would require a law enforcement agency to notify the Maryland Center for School Safety, the State Board of Education, and the State's Attorney of a student's arrest for a reportable offense or for an offense that is related to the student's membership in a criminal organization. House Bill 203 also requires the State's Attorney to notify the Maryland Center for School Safety and the State Board of Education of the disposition of the reportable offense, and requires a local superintendent to notify the Maryland Center for School Safety and the State Board of Education when a student who has been arrested no longer resides in the jurisdiction of the county board of education.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

MSEA is a dedicated to dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline. Our union supports the development of collaborative programs involving families, schools, communities, social services, law enforcement agencies, and judicial institutions to build safe and healthy school environments for all. To eliminate the school-to-prison pipeline, efforts should focus on preventative measures, restorative practices, and intervention supports to students in need.



House Bill 203 would create an unnecessary and invasive surveillance system that perpetuates stigmas associated with arrests. In fiscal year 2022, approximately 68.5% of cases forwarded to the Department of Juvenile Systems were resolved without the authorization of a formal petition.¹ Requiring additional mandatory reporting for a student's arrest is unnecessary and punitive. No student should be judged solely on a report of an arrest that does not present the context or circumstances giving rise to the event.

MSEA urges lawmakers to focus on building additional supports for students and their families to address social, emotional, and behavioral needs. The creation of unnecessary surveillance systems does nothing to address the underlying issues associated with behavioral issues and only has the potential to perpetuate stigma.

We urge the committee to issue an Unfavorable Report on House Bill 203.

¹ Maryland Dep't of Juvenile Services, *Data Resource Guide Fiscal Year 2022*, p. 26 (Dec. 2022), https://djs.maryland.gov/Documents/DRG/Data_Resource_Guide_FY2022.pdf.