



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

**Judiciary  
Position: Oppose**

Strong Schools Maryland is a network of education advocates dedicated to ensuring the full funding and faithful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. We are also a member of the Maryland Coalition to Reform School Discipline (CRSD), which brings together advocates, service providers, and community members to transform school discipline practices within Maryland’s public school systems. **Strong Schools Maryland opposes House Bill 203, which would expand reporting of reportable offenses and confidential student information to the Maryland Center for School Safety and the State Board.**

When students are arrested off school grounds for conduct unrelated to school, school districts can, and often do, remove students from school for indefinite periods of time. Present law requires that a mere arrest trigger reporting to the school district and school officials. This bill proposes further dissemination of information to additional state agencies. The sharing of confidential, reportable offense information, even after the child is no longer under the supervision of the juvenile justice or criminal justice court, creates barriers in the student’s education and perpetuates stigma. This would negatively impact Maryland communities already disproportionately targeted in the criminal justice system. If enacted, this bill would also tax school officials to address issues beyond the scope of the school, which instead should be handled by strong community institutions.

The passage of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future began a new period in Maryland's journey to achieve educational equity. Our state is set to make record investments in education to ensure a successful future for young people. An example of this is the Blueprint's enhancements and additions in community schools, which provide resources for students and grant access to trauma and behavioral health support.

It is the responsibility of the Maryland General Assembly to advance legislation that fosters trustworthy relationships between schools and students. Additional reporting of personal information to State agencies is incompatible with a cohesive commitment to the Blueprint.

**For these reasons, we request an unfavorable report on House Bill 203.**

For more information, contact:

Maddie Long

[maddie@strongschoolsmaryland.org](mailto:maddie@strongschoolsmaryland.org)