



DATE: February 1, 2023 **COMMITTEE:** House Ways and Means
BILL NO: House Bill 185
BILL TITLE: Nonpublic Schools and Child Care Providers - Corporal Punishment - Prohibition
POSITION: Support

Kennedy Krieger Institute supports House Bill 185 - Nonpublic Schools and Child Care Providers - Corporal Punishment - Prohibition

Bill Summary:

House Bill 185 prohibits the Maryland State Board of Education (MSDE) from issuing a certificate of approval to noncollegiate educational institutions that do not have a policy prohibiting the administration of corporal punishment. This legislation prohibits the use of corporal punishment to discipline a child.

Background:

Section 7-306 of the Education statute of Maryland prohibits the use of use of corporal punishment to discipline a student in all public schools throughout the State. This legislation extends that prohibition to nonpublic and childcare providers throughout Maryland.

Rationale:

Kennedy Krieger Institute is home to four (soon-to-be five) nonpublic schools serving publicly funded students from throughout Maryland. Our schools are committed to providing comprehensive, innovative special education and related services for children, adolescents, and young adults with a wide range of learning, social, emotional, behavioral, physical, neurological and developmental disabilities. The Institute provides an education to public school students, funded by their local educational agencies to receive instruction in our programs.

Our mission is to enable students to reach their potential academically, socially and behaviorally. We are committed to protecting all faculty, staff, and students, ensuring that they share a safe environment to learn and grow.

The Institute wholeheartedly agrees that under no circumstance should corporal punishment be used to discipline a child. This violence causes tremendous harm both physically and mentally to a young person. We stand with our public-school counterparts in banning corporal punishment in all programs.

Kennedy Krieger Institute requests a favorable report on House Bill 185.