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TO: The Honorable Vanessa Atterbear
Chair, Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: HB 69 Education – Student Behavior – Parent and Guardian Notice and
Required Counseling (Parent and Guardian Accountability Act) -- OPPOSE

The Office of the Attorney General urges the Ways and Means Committee to unfavorably report House Bill 69. If enacted, HB 69 would criminalize a parent's or guardian's inability to attend counseling with their child upon receiving a notice that the child engaged in "two or more incidents of violent and disruptive behavior on school premises or during school-related activities"

According to a Government Accountability Office ("GAO") report, "black students in K-12 schools are far more likely to be disciplined – whether through suspension or referral to law enforcement – than their counterparts of other races."¹ A report by the Columbia Law School's Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies "found that black girls are six times as likely to be suspended as white girls, while black boys are three times as likely to be suspended as white boys."² One thing black children tend to have in common is black parents or guardians. House Bill 69 would exacerbate the existing problem of school discipline with disparate impacts upon children of color by criminalizing their parents.

We urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 69.

cc: The Honorable Robert Long & Committee Members

¹ German Lopez, "Black kids are way more likely to be punished in school than white kids, study finds: A government watchdog looked at the data – and it's not good." VOX (Apr. 5, 2018), available online at: <https://www.vox.com/identities/2018/4/5/17199810/school-discipline-race-racism-gao> (last visited Jan. 30, 2023).

² *Id.*