

Education Advocacy Coalition

for Students with Disabilities

HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL 320: MARYLAND LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM—DEFINITION OF STUDENT DATA-- ALTERATION

DATE: FEBRUARY 8, 2023

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Education Advocacy Coalition for Students with Disabilities (EAC), a coalition of approximately 40 organizations and individuals concerned with education policy for students with disabilities in Maryland, supports House Bill 320, which would amend the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) to include the collection of student disability data disaggregated by specific disability category.

Integrating information about students with disabilities into the MLDS, which currently collects student data about assessment performance, academic performance and course completion, demographics, degrees, credentials or diplomas, discipline, child welfare data and other key areas affecting attendance, educational performance and potential barriers to college and career readiness will provide information that has been sorely lacking in the analysis of Maryland's education data system. Policymakers make decisions based on data, and it is of the utmost importance that the data upon which they make their decisions be as robust and as complete as possible. HB320 will, if enacted, fill a hole in the MLDS. For these reasons, the EAC supports HB320. Please contact Leslie Seid Margolis, Chairperson, at lesliem@disabilityrightsmd.org or 443-692-2505 with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Selene Almazan, Selene Almazan Law, LLC
Rene Averitt-Sanzone, The Parents' Place of Maryland
Linda Barton, MS.Ed., Education Consultant
Beth Benevides, Howard County Autism Society
Rich Ceruolo, Parent Advocacy Consortium
Michelle Davis, ABCs for Life Success
Ann Geddes, Maryland Coalition of Families
Beth Ann Hancock, Charting the Course, LLC
Morgan Durand Horvath, M.Ed., Abilities Network
Kalman Hettleman, Independent Advocate
Rosemary Kitzinger and Marjorie Guldan, Bright Futures, LLC
Ande Kolp, The Arc Maryland
Rachel London, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council
Leslie Seid Margolis, Disability Rights Maryland
Ellen O'Neill, Atlantic Seaboard Dyslexia Education Center
Ronza Othman, National Federation of the Blind of Maryland
Maria Ott, Attorney
Rebecca Rienzi, Pathfinders for Autism (over)

Jaime Seaton, BGS Law

Kelly Spanoghe, Education Advocate

Karleen Spitulnik, Decoding Dyslexia Maryland

Ronnetta Stanley, Loud Voices Together

Guy Stephens, Alliance Against Seclusion and Restraint

Maureen van Stone, Annie Carver, Tyler Cochran, Project HEAL—Kennedy Krieger Institute (over)

Liz Zogby, Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition

The Maryland Education Coalition joins this testimony.