

February 28th, 2024 - Alexander Allin: Support (FAV) for SB 492

Good afternoon, Mister Chair, Madam Vice Chair, and Committee Members. My name is Alexander Allin, and I'm a high school junior from District 16 in Montgomery County. Thank you for the opportunity to share my position on SB 492, Public Schools - Student Telehealth Appointments - Policy and Access.

Telehealth appointments provide a modern, more accessible way for students to check in with medical professionals and get medical support and treatment. However, students who have telehealth appointments during the school day lose that easy access to healthcare. They are required to go home - which can be impossible for students who use a school bus to get to and from school - to attend a Zoom appointment, which results in many students who have access to healthcare unable to utilize the resources they deserve. In addition, students who go home to access appointments miss valuable classroom time, making it counterproductive for them to take telehealth appointments and focus on their health. Students who can't make telehealth appointments during the school day have to take them after school, a small window for a healthcare professional to provide appointments for all students.

To prioritize students focusing on their health and support healthcare professionals in seeing more students at no cost (*there is no fiscal impact for this bill*), a favorable report on SB 492 is imperative so students don't face barriers in accessing healthcare.

Thank you again for listening to student voices,

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