

Written testimony for **SB 482/ HB 773**: Public Middle and High Schools - Student Discipline (Right to Teach Act of 2025) - Please **VOTE YES, with Amendments**, on this bill.

Dear Education, Energy and the Environment Committee:

This bill reads "...Authorizing a teacher in a public middle or high school in the State to take certain disciplinary actions in response to certain student behavior and to direct students to certain school officials; and prohibiting a county board of education from taking disciplinary action against a certain teacher for certain actions..."

IN RESPONSE TO BEHAVIOR BY A STUDENT THAT DOES NOT CONFORM TO THE BEHAVIORAL GUIDELINES ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-306(D) OF THIS SUBTITLE, **A TEACHER MAY REMOVE A STUDENT FROM THE CLASSROOM**...IF A TEACHER REMOVES A STUDENT FROM THE CLASSROOM UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE TEACHER SHALL: (1) DOCUMENT THE STUDENT'S BEHAVIOR; (2) SUBMIT THE DOCUMENTATION OF THE BEHAVIOR TO THE PRINCIPAL; AND (3) SEND THE STUDENT TO THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR...A PRINCIPAL **MAY NOT RETURN A STUDENT TO A TEACHER'S CLASSROOM** WITHOUT THE TEACHER'S CONSENT, UNLESS THE PRINCIPAL, GUIDANCE COUNSELOR, AND TEACHER DETERMINE THAT THE PLACEMENT IS THE BEST OR ONLY OPTION AVAILABLE...

A COUNTY BOARD **MAY NOT TAKE DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST A TEACHER** WHO REMOVES A STUDENT FROM A CLASSROOM IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTIONS (B) AND (C) OF THIS SECTION..."

This is a good bill, because it will allow teachers to send disruptive students to either the principal or the guidance counselor, so that the teacher can continue to provide the best learning environment for their entire classroom of students.

However, I believe the bill could be better by **amending the bill, amending the following wording** in the bill:

"...(E) IF A STUDENT IS SENT TO THE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, THE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR SHALL DISCIPLINE THE STUDENT USING **ANY AND ALL MEANS OF DISCIPLINE** IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-306 OF 6 THIS SUBTITLE..."

First, if a student is sent to the guidance counselor for disruptive behavior, the guidance counselor should **not** discipline the student using **only “restorative approaches”**. The guidance counselor **should be able to use every means** of discipline available to the school, and the discipline should complement the severity of the disruptive behavior of the student. For example, if the student was egregiously offensive to another student or was threatening or causing violence to another student, then that student needs to be disciplined using more than “restorative approaches”. We have to show students that we will not tolerate inappropriate, disruptive behavior in our schools. If children know that they will only receive a “slap on the wrist” type of punishment or discipline, then they will continue to behave inappropriately or disruptively. And all of our other students deserve better.

I believe this bill would also be better by **deleting the following wording** from the bill:

“(G) A STUDENT WHO IS REMOVED FROM A CLASSROOM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED REMOVED FROM THE CLASSROOM FOR PURPOSES OF A REPORTING REQUIREMENT UNDER § 7–306 OF THIS SUBTITLE...”

Second, I think we do our schools an **injustice**, as far as reporting is concerned, if we do **not report** a student who is removed from a classroom. Why would we do that? If a student was removed from a classroom and we do not report it, then we **do not** have a **true picture** or true, reliable data of how many students are being removed from our classrooms. This part of the bill serves no good purpose.

Other than those two **Amendments** to this bill, I think this is a good bill that will let our teachers do what they were hired to do: teach. And this bill should positively impact our students’ learning outcomes, which is what we all want.

Therefore, please **VOTE YES, WITH AMENDMENTS** on this bill.

Thank you for your courtesy, time and attention.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals

A Very Concerned Mother of 3 and Maryland Resident

