



OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE CITY

February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman.  
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: SBO386 - Primary and Secondary Education – Definition and Notification of Reportable Offense – Alterations**

Dear Chairman Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express our support for SBO386, a bill that seeks to repeal and amend certain provisions of the Education Code, Section 7-303. This bill would enhance coordination between law enforcement and our school systems by allowing the sharing of crucial information when a student is arrested and charged with a “reportable offense.” Additionally, it would require the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to notify the local superintendent of schools, the school principal, and the school security officer in such cases.

Under the current provisions of Education Code 7-303, the actual reporting to a school of a “reportable offense” is limited, and law enforcement is prevented from informing designated school officials when a student is arrested on campus or at a school event. Furthermore, this law does not mandate that DJS notify school officials if a case is dismissed or resolved informally without litigation. In many instances, when these cases are resolved informally or at intake—an occurrence that affects a significant number of students—the individuals in question return to the same school where the offense occurred, without any relevant information being shared with the school.

This lack of communication leaves schools vulnerable and impedes their ability to protect students and staff. SBO386 addresses this gap by requiring that schools be notified when a case is not pursued through the court system, ensuring that school officials are aware of incidents that may affect the safety and well-being of their communities.

This bill is vital to enhancing the safety of our children and educators by fostering transparency and improving communication between the judicial and educational system. By ensuring that schools receive timely and accurate information about incidents involving their students, this legislation will empower educators and school officials to make informed decisions regarding the safety of their students and staff.



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In conclusion, I urge the Committee to support SB0386, as it will significantly contribute to building trust in our judicial system while providing schools with the tools necessary to maintain a safe and secure learning environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Hassan Giordano*

Hassan Giordano  
Chief, External Affairs Division