



**Baltimore City – Ruby Bridges Walk To School Bill – HB0493  
Commodore John Rodgers Elementary/ Middle School  
FAVORABLE**

March 17, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

As the Student Government Advisor at Commodore John Rodgers Elementary/ Middle School, I am writing this letter to give my full endorsement of Bill HB0493, and also to share the endorsements of our Student Government Delegates. On November 16, 2024, our SGA and our Second Grade classes participated in a Ruby Bridges Walk to school in our school neighborhood.

After the Ruby Bridges Walk, students participated in a reflective writing exercise. I am sharing excerpts from their writing below, as I strongly believe that it is more powerful than anything I could write myself. In closing, I hope you feel the urgency and importance of passing Bill HB0493. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robin Palomares  
SGA Advisor  
2nd Grade ML Teacher  
palomares@thecjrschool.org

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As the lead Safety Patrol Delegate of Commodore John Rodgers Elementary/Middle School, I write in support of HB0493, which would authorize Maryland public schools to have a Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day to commemorate Ruby Bridges. HB0493 will provide understanding of our history so that we have a solid understanding of all that we have been through to bring us to today.

- **Laura Lopez-Xochicale** - *Lead Safety Patrol Delegate* (Grade 7)

This was powerful for us as a school community because Ruby Bridges was a very important person that faced many discriminations. This could've had a larger impact if there were more places to go and stand up for Ruby Bridges. The message this gives us is BLM. No matter what race you are.

- **Erica Solano Rodriguez** - *Safety Patrol/SGA Delegate* (Grade 7)
- **Allison Garcia-Montalvo** - *Safety Patrol/SGA Delegate* (Grade 7)

The Ruby Bridges walk is a pivotal movement for young children in our community to help understand the fight for equality. With our political system today the Ruby Bridges walk symbolizes courage for younger youth. With this bill being passed for MD public schools it can inspire younger generations to stand up and against injustice and racism.

- **Kellsey Jones** - *SGA Treasurer* (Grade 8)
- **Jamil Taylor** - *SGA President* (Grade 8)
- **Ziah Cragway** - *SGA Delegate* (Grade 8)

The Ruby Bridges walk showed how diverse Maryland can be and even though we're a diverse state we still accept every single person. The Ruby Bridges walk can have a large impact on Maryland like kids can learn about the past and if it weren't for Ruby we would still be in segregated schools.

- **Marcelo Silverio-Pucheta** - *SGA Delegate* (Grade 8)

The Ruby Bridges walk should happen around Maryland. In our school, the walk created a sense of community with everyone, with the neighbors and the classmates. Cars stopped and cheered us on, and stopped for us. This could create a reason to unite around Maryland onto one thing. This could show other countries our culture, and that we aren't some bad school. It can show them that we are something.

- **Matthew Kennel** - *SGA Vice President* (Grade 8)

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The walk showed how Ruby Bridges made my school what it is today and made it so diverse to the point where anywhere you walk you'll see somebody from any part of the world.

Ruby Bridges had changed our school systems so much, especially in Maryland, which they began the process of desegregation in 1955. My research shows me that Baltimore was one of the first school systems to desegregate voluntarily.

The Ruby Bridges walk had been practiced at many schools and should be practiced at *all* schools. The Ruby Bridges walk is powerful and impactful because it lets everybody realize how far different school systems have come and how they are still changing to this day. Although we still have school bullying, underpaid teachers, and more. Overall, this shows where the Maryland school was at the beginning and how just one person had changed all of it.

- **Saniyah Kirkland** - SGA/Safety Patrol Delegate (Grade 7)

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