



Moms for Liberty Maryland Legislative Committee requests a favorable report for HB 1180: *Education - Primary and Secondary Schools - Alternative School Options (Right to Learn Act)*

This bill is a lifeline for students trapped in failing schools and a bold step toward ensuring every child in Maryland has access to the education they deserve.

Too many Maryland families know how a struggling school can dim a child's future. When a school earns a one-star rating for three consecutive years, it's not just a statistic—it's a signal that something is deeply wrong. Kids in these environments aren't getting the tools they need to succeed. They're stuck, and too often, their families feel powerless to change that. This bill changes the game by giving parents real options and holding schools accountable.

The Right to Learn Act does three things that we believe are critical. **First, it ensures transparency.** By requiring county boards to notify parents annually about a school's failing status and provide a list of alternative options, we empower families to make informed choices. No one should be left in the dark about their child's education.

Second, it offers opportunity. Whether it's a higher-performing public school, a nonpublic school, or even a military boarding school, this bill opens doors for students to escape failing environments. The Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today Program is especially exciting—it provides scholarships for kids from low-income families and those in failing schools to attend nonpublic schools. That's not just fairness; it's a chance at a better life. And for students struggling with violence or discipline, the military boarding school option could be a turning point, offering structure and support they might not find elsewhere.

Third, it demands accountability. A failing school doesn't lose that label until it earns a two-star rating for two straight years. That's a clear standard, and it ensures that resources follow the student—not the system—until real improvement happens. The funding mechanism, where local boards cover the cost of alternative options and unused funds return to them, is practical and keeps the focus on the kids.

Some might worry about the cost or the logistics, but let's be honest: **we can't afford *not* to act.** Every year a child spends in a failing school is a year they fall behind—academically, socially, and emotionally. This bill isn't about abandoning public schools; it's about giving students and families a way out while we work to fix what's broken. It's about saying, "*Your education matters, and we're not going to let a failing system hold you back.*"

Moms for Liberty Legislative Committee strongly urges you to issue a favorable report for House Bill 1180. It's a commonsense, student-centered solution that puts power back in the hands of parents and gives every child a fighting chance. Thank you for your time and consideration.