

HB 0773 Testimony “The Right to Teach Act”

As a former teacher for 30 years, I know that students cannot learn in a disruptive environment. Teachers should handle discipline in their classes, but they can only do so if they have the help and backing of administration of the school. When a student is out of control, so much so that the teacher can no longer deal with him/her, then the teacher MUST have the option to have that student removed from the classroom and disciplined by an administrator.

Teacher must not be targeted or given bad evaluations or consequences for doing what is necessary to help students learn in the classroom. This is particularly true with young and inexperienced teachers.

We have a teacher shortage in Maryland, and it has little or nothing to do with teacher pay. It has more to do with the environment in schools. I get phone calls all the time telling me that students are out of control and teachers cannot call for help without getting consequences themselves. Even worse, they often call for help from administrators and the administrators don't show up.

One important facet of this law is something that has been in place before, and that is no student who has been sent out of the classroom for disciplinary reasons my return to the classroom without having a conference with the teacher, the administrator, and even the parents. This conference MUST inform the student that his/her behavior is NOT acceptable and that if continued there will be other, more serious consequences.

Without the ability to discipline students, teachers cannot teach, students cannot learn, and teachers will leave the profession. I strongly support HB 0733.

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