



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

March 5, 2026

Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

Senate Bill 526 — Public Schools - Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day and Maryland School Pedestrian Awareness Day - Establishment

POSITION: Favorable

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

The Prince George's County Council respectfully submits this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 526 - Public Schools - Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day and Maryland School Pedestrian Awareness Day – Establishment.

Prince George's County is home to one of the most diverse student populations in the State of Maryland. Our public schools reflect the strength, resilience, and rich cultural heritage of our communities. Recognizing Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day provides an important opportunity for students to learn about the courage it took to dismantle barriers in public education and to reflect on the ongoing responsibility we share to ensure schools remain welcoming, inclusive, and equitable spaces for every child. For a county that has long championed civil rights, educational access, and opportunity, this observance aligns directly with our values and the lived experiences of many of our families.

Equally important, the emphasis on pedestrian awareness and safety resonates deeply at the local level. Prince George's County continues to prioritize safe routes to school, pedestrian infrastructure improvements, and traffic safety initiatives around school zones. With a large number of students who walk, ride bicycles or use public transportation to get to school, promoting pedestrian safety is not symbolic — it is a practical and urgent matter of public health and student well-being. Raising awareness through coordinated statewide recognition supports the local work already underway in our communities to reduce accidents and create safer environments for our children.

Senate Bill 526 connects history, education, and student safety in a way that reflects the realities of our County. It provides a framework that supports conversations about equity while reinforcing the shared responsibility we have to protect students as they travel to and from school. For Prince George's County, these are not abstract ideals — they are daily commitments.

For these reasons, the Prince George's County Council respectfully urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 526.

Thank you for your consideration.

Prepared by: Ashlar Government Relations on behalf of Prince George's County Council

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