

SB 0051: Public Schools - Self-Contained Special Education Classrooms - Use of Video Recording Devices: Please vote to SUPPORT this bill.

Dear Senators of the Education, Energy & the Environment Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for **SB 0051**, which authorizes the use of video recording devices in self-contained special education classrooms.

Students in self-contained special education settings are among **Maryland's most vulnerable children**. Many are nonverbal or have limited ability to report abuse, neglect, or inappropriate conduct. **SB 0051** provides an important safeguard to protect these students while also protecting educators by ensuring transparency and accountability.

The use of video recording devices can deter misconduct, help resolve disputes fairly, and provide objective documentation when concerns arise. This **protects students, reassures parents, and helps school systems** respond promptly and appropriately when incidents occur. Parents should not have to rely on blind trust when their child cannot communicate what happens during the school day.

**SB 0051** appropriately balances safety with privacy by limiting access to recordings, establishing clear protocols for use, and ensuring recordings are reviewed only when a legitimate concern is raised. These safeguards help protect the dignity of students and staff while prioritizing student well-being.

Transparency builds trust. **When parents know there are systems in place to protect their most vulnerable children, confidence in our public schools is strengthened.** **SB 0051** is a reasonable, thoughtful step toward greater accountability and student protection in special education settings.

I respectfully urge you to **support SB 0051**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Trudy Tibbals