

Written Testimony in Support of SB0659

TO: Dear Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Parents of J**

POSITION: Favorable

BILL: SB0659 – Maryland Fair Schools Act

A Calculated Pattern of Institutional Profiling. Our daughter, J**, was a model student and a star athlete. By the 8th grade, she was a straight-A student, a member of the Junior Honor Society, and a school Ambassador for four consecutive years. She excelled on both the basketball and lacrosse "A" teams. This exemplary record was systematically dismantled by her school in a campaign that began in October 2023. It started with a relentless period of verbal abuse and harassment that the school ignored despite our repeated pleas for help. This negligence created the environment where students felt empowered to assault J** in a bathroom.

Rather than protecting the victim, the school followed a documented pattern of forcing out minority students. They "flipped the script" to protect their image, labeling J** as the aggressor and fabricating a narrative that she had "choked" another student. This is not an isolated mistake; it is a predatory strategy used against Muslim and African American students to brand them as "troublemakers" and justify their removal.

Intentional Academic Disruption and Doxing. The school counselor, Ms. S**, began pulling J** out of core classes multiple times a week. This was not for support; it was a tactical disruption of her education. When J** begged to stay in class to keep up with her work, Ms. S** twisted that plea into a confession of academic failure, recording in her file that the workload was "beyond J**'s abilities". Furthermore, Ms. S** breached confidentiality when she shared the false "choking" narrative and other intrusive, private details about J** with students, instructing them to stay away from J** for their "safety" and to report to her any and all interactions with J**. This institutional doxing turned J**'s peers into a surveillance network, leaving a 13-year-old girl to ask, "Is it my fault?" while she was being systematically isolated.

The Double Standard and Profiling. This profiling extended to the classroom. While white and Asian students were seen as "harmlessly playing" with their assigned Exacto knives, J** was singled out. The administration rebranded her tool as a "box cutter" on her permanent record—a term chosen specifically to criminalize a Muslim girl for behavior that went unpunished in her peers.

The "Withdrawal" Ultimatum and Systemic Fear. In February 2024, the school gave us a two-week ultimatum: "voluntarily" withdraw J**, or she would be expelled. This is a predatory tactic used regularly to force families out quietly to avoid accountability. However, the nightmare did not end with her withdrawal. The institutional doxing was so thorough that students continued to harass J** via phone or online even after she left the school. Because the school failed to protect Muslim students or enforce its own code of

conduct against those targeting her while at school, these students felt empowered to continue their abuse beyond the school gates.

The Jurisdictional Gap. When we sought help, we hit a wall. Both the **Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)** and the federal **Office for Civil Rights (OCR)** informed us they lacked the authority to act. Because this private school takes no public funding, they are "outside the jurisdiction" of the very agencies meant to protect children from discrimination. J** is now in 10th grade, but she still carries the lasting pain of this trauma.

Conclusion: The attached drawings (see Appendix) reveal the depth of J**'s suffering: a child surrounded by shadows and a shattered heart. Please vote **Favorable on SB0659**. Do not let a school's bank account be a license to destroy a child's life and silence the families who are too terrified to speak out.

Appendix: Images my daughter was drawing due to the school's doxing and trauma









