



TESTIMONY FOR SB0659

Prekindergarten Programs and Primary and Secondary Schools - Student Privacy Policy Requirements and Discrimination Reporting

Bill Sponsor: Senator Love

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0659 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

It is becoming more and more difficult to manage what is happening to our children in our schools, both public and private. Families are more diverse than ever – parents who have separated or divorced, children who live with grandparents, etc. Who is in charge of seeing or handling their records? What happens with discrimination complaints?

These are issues that not every school is prepared to deal with in a consistent manner. This bill, if enacted, would require all schools in the state to create procedures for dealing with the release of student records. It would include -

- a policy statement assuring that all records pertaining to a student are available to the student's parent or guardian for inspection or review
- procedures to be followed by a parent or guardian who requests the records of their child
- a policy statement assuring that the school may not disclose personal identifying information from a student's record without prior written consent of the student's parent or guardian
- procedures by which the school shall maintain a written record of requests for personal identifying information from a student's record

Additionally, this bill will require each school to report to the Department of Education each September, starting in 2027, the number of incidents of discrimination alleged on the grounds of race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability against a student or, a prospective student or a parent or guardian of a student or a prospective student. This will allow the Department of Education to monitor what is happening in each school and create a more proactive approach to problems.

We support the bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

