

**Maryland Association of School Health Nurses**



**Committee:** Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 526 – Public Schools - Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day and Maryland School Pedestrian Awareness Day - Establishment

**Hearing Date:** March 4, 2026

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Association of School Health Nurses (MASHN) supports *Senate Bill 526 – Public Schools - Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day and Maryland School Pedestrian Awareness Day - Establishment*. The bill establishes the Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day and the Maryland School Pedestrian Awareness Day. Ruby Bridges was the first Black student to integrate an elementary school in Louisiana in 1960.<sup>i</sup> MASHN supports honoring Ruby Bridges’ contribution to advance equity in education. MASHN also supports recognizing the importance of safety for students walking to schools. In Maryland, 166 students have been killed as pedestrians between 2000 and 2014 as part of a concerning national trend.<sup>ii</sup>

We ask for a favorable vote. If we can provide any information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/ruby-bridges>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7098840/>