

SB 659/HB 1032: Prekindergarten Programs and Primary and Secondary Schools - Student Privacy Policy Requirements and Discrimination Reporting: Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Education, Energy & the Environment Committee and Ways & Means Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **OPPOSE SB 659/HB 1032**.

While student privacy protections are important (and already governed by federal laws like FERPA), the new mandatory annual reporting requirement on *alleged* discrimination incidents in nonpublic schools *imposes excessive government oversight* on private educational institutions. These bills **will prohibit free speech, religious expression, and parental choice in nonpublic settings** by forcing schools to document and report subjective "allegations" (not proven incidents) that may stem from disagreements over curriculum, policies, or values—**leading to politicized scrutiny, harassment claims, or pressure on faith-based or independent schools.**

Requiring nonpublic schools to report such details annually creates unnecessary administrative burdens, **risks privacy violations for students/families involved**, and sets a precedent for state interference in private education without clear evidence of widespread issues. **Public schools already have mechanisms for handling discrimination** complaints. **Extending this reporting mandate to nonpublic entities oversteps into areas better left to local governance, parental oversight, or existing civil rights laws.**

Maryland should prioritize reducing bureaucracy in education, respecting parental rights, and protecting the independence of nonpublic schools—not adding layers of state-mandated reporting that could be weaponized or deter diverse educational options.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote against SB 659/HB 1032**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of my concerns regarding this important education privacy and governance matter.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals