

Testimony For Therapy Dog Bill SB299-2026

TARTEIL'S AHMED - Student

Testimony Link to Video:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/11Acdoxt7IQ_vaWxlQcci4j1YSrMxeOYk/view?usp=sharing

Good Afternoon, Chairman Feldman, Vice Chairwoman Kagan and other members of the Education, Environment and Energy Committee.

I am in grade 6 at Silver Spring International Middle School in Silver Spring Maryland.

I would like to speak to you about advocacy for therapy dogs and how they reduce stress at school. I believe that therapy dogs should be available to every student and it is every students right. I have had incidents at school where I was stressed and on the verge of tears and I had no one to confide in and I had to keep it in. Therapy dogs provide comfort and warmth to students and to everyone in general. Therapy dogs are not biased and are simply there to make everyone feel better. If therapy dogs were available to every single student in Maryland, the kids will feel mentally better and will be able to focus more during class.

The board of education is supposed to make sure that everywhere is a safe environment for students to learn but how can we accomplish that when countless students are going home crying stressed from school.