

## **SB0174 – State Board of Education – Enforcement Procedures – Alteration**

Chair and members of the Committee:

My name is Alicia Reneé Baines. I am a Maryland parent and special education advocate. I am urging an **UNFAVORABLE** report on SB0174 because it fast-tracks protections for leadership while families of children with disabilities wait—sometimes for multiple school years—for enforcement and remedies that directly affect a child’s education.

### **This bill fast-tracks power, not children**

SB0174 imposes a **90-day limit** on the State Board’s appeals process **only** when the appeal involves removing a county superintendent or a county board member.

There is no comparable urgency or timeline protection for families when a student is denied services, when corrective actions remain incomplete, or when compensatory education is owed.

### **My Letter of Findings shows the real problem: enforcement delay and weak accountability**

I have a final **Letter of Findings** in my state complaint (**MSDE Complaint #26-008**). It documents systemic noncompliance concerns and finds a violation related to failure to ensure corrective action is completed within required timelines, including the one-year correction requirement in federal law.

And here is the practical consequence: **my child lost time**. In my lived experience, I waited **two school years** to obtain compensatory education that was owed. Children cannot get school years back. Yet SB0174 tells Maryland that when leadership is on the line, the State can move in 90 days.

### **This creates the exact “systems protecting systems” problem Maryland families are tired of**

SB0174 confirms what families already know: when the system wants speed, it can set deadlines.

So the problem is not feasibility. The problem is priority.

If the General Assembly wants to legislate urgency, it should legislate it where it protects Marylanders:

- timely enforcement of corrective actions when violations are found,
- meaningful accountability when timelines are missed, and
- remedies that prevent children from losing months or years of education while agencies deliberate.

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### **Closing**

SB0174 should not move forward as written. It accelerates outcomes for governance disputes while families continue to endure delayed enforcement and delayed relief—despite documented violations and confirmed corrective-action failures.

Maryland children deserve at least the same urgency this bill provides to superintendents.

I respectfully urge an **UNFAVORABLE** report.

Respectfully submitted,

**Alicia Baines**

Maryland Parent & Special Education Advocate