



April 1, 2026

House Bill 1310 — Public High Schools — Student Transcripts — Traumatic Loss Notation

Senate Education, Energy & Environment Committee

Position: SUPPORT

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth (MARFY) respectfully submits this testimony in strong support of House Bill 1310.

MARFY’s membership includes licensed private child-placing agencies and community-based providers across Maryland that serve children and youth with complex trauma histories, including those in foster care and other out-of-home placements. These youth often experience multiple losses including loss of family members, guardians, siblings, or other close relationships in addition to the trauma of separation from home.

House Bill 1310 authorizes students who have experienced a qualifying traumatic loss to request a traumatic loss notation on their official high school transcripts, with standard language developed by the State Department of Education. This policy is consistent with trauma-informed educational practice and supports children who otherwise enter postsecondary settings without a means to contextualize disruptions in academic performance or attendance.

Research indicates that academic disruptions are a common impact of trauma. Trauma can lead to difficulties with concentration, attendance, and engagement, yet traditional transcripts do not provide a way to reflect these mitigating circumstances. By allowing a standard, dignified notation, HB 1310 gives students and families a way to communicate context in a manner that higher education institutions and employers can understand.

Importantly, the bill’s requirement for standardized language rather than subjective or ad hoc approaches promotes equity and protects student privacy. Consistent implementation across local school systems will reduce disparities in how trauma histories affect academic records.

For youth who have experienced traumatic loss, this bill is a meaningful step toward greater understanding and opportunity.

MARFY respectfully urges a favorable report on House Bill 1310.

Thank you for your consideration.

For more information call or email:

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