



Testimony in Support of SB720 – Education – Artificial Intelligence – Guidelines, Professional Development, and Collaborative (Artificial Intelligence Ready Schools Act)

Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

February 26, 2026

FAVORABLE

Free State PTA (FSPTA) represents over 70,000 volunteer members and families in over 500 public schools. As the state’s premier and largest child advocacy organization, Free State PTA is a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families, schools, and communities, and a strong advocate for public education. ***We are offering a favorable testimony in support of Senate Bill 720.***

Put into perspective only a couple of seconds, that’s how long it takes for a student to generate an entire essay. Then after spending another minute refining the style and adjusting the tone, they copy and paste the results into their assignment and hit submit. During this, artificial intelligence (AI) has the ability to collect and store student records, jeopardizing personal information. As parents, students, and educators, we have seen firsthand how AI has challenged the standard of education and continues to pose significant risks if left unregulated. These detrimental effects are already becoming apparent, ranging from academic dishonesty to the loss of critical thinking and creativity, the ability to bypass certain academic standards, and the overall threat to intellectual growth and privacy.

This bill mandates important steps to help mitigate the harmful consequences of AI in the classroom including requiring the State Department of Education to provide certain guidance on artificial intelligence to local school systems and other educational stakeholders through an online platform, the designation of a coordinator for the use of it by the county Board of Education, the establishment of the Maryland AI Education Collaborative on Artificial Intelligence in K-12 Education to study the uses of it in each local school system, and perhaps most importantly the requirement of the development of clear guidelines and practices regarding AI. As parents, students, and educators, we want to know we are under an educational system that protects our data and honors academic integrity through earned success, not one that rewards automated shortcuts and promotes a variety of safety risks.

Free State PTA urges the committee to issue a favorable report on SB720.

Thank you,
Free State PTA, Advocacy Committee