



**HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE  
HOUSE BILL 1032**

**PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS AND PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS – STUDENT  
PRIVACY POLICY REQUIREMENTS AND DISCRIMINATION REPORTING**

**MARCH 4, 2026**

**OPPOSE**

Maryland CAPE is our state's chapter and one of 40 state chapters of the Council for American Private Education. Our network includes the Catholic, Christian, Evangelical Lutheran, Friends, Independent, Jewish, Lutheran, Montessori, Muslim, and Seventh Day Adventist school communities. We speak on behalf of over 138,000 nonpublic school students attending over one thousand nonpublic schools across our great state of Maryland. We speak today in opposition to House Bill 649.

The importance of ensuring that all students are protected from discrimination has long been a subject of legislation in the General Assembly. In 2022, Maryland CAPE engaged in extensive, good-faith discussion and advocacy with a broad group of education advocates on [House Bill 850](#) of that year's session. As a result of those discussions, the final version of that nondiscrimination bill ensured that the law would respect a school's independence in a variety of critical areas while protecting all individuals from discrimination and unjust treatment. It is deeply disappointing that the previous agreement is now being revisited, and that the independence of our schools should be called into question.

House Bill 1032 would impose burdensome, broad reporting requirements of allegations of all kinds, without providing for misunderstandings, resolutions, or the accuracy of the allegation. It would burden our schools and provide an opening for disgruntled individuals to issue baseless allegations in hopes of discrediting the institution with whom they are disaffected.

House Bill 1032 makes no provision for schools who are religious in nature and therefore only admit students from that religion, nor for schools who are single-sex (rather than co-ed) who therefore exclude members of the opposite sex. The rights of such institutions are common-sense as well as inscribed in law.

We respectfully request that the policies and standing agreed upon in 2022 are respected and preserved as the standard, and we ask that you issue an UNFAVORABLE report on House Bill 1032.

Thank you.