

FAVORABLE
House Bill 1011
Workgroup on Supporting Transgender and Gender Diverse Students -
Established

House Ways and Means Committee
March 4, 2026

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Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 1011, which would establish the Workgroup on Supporting Transgender and Gender Diverse Students to study ways to support transgender and gender diverse students and make recommendations regarding statewide policies.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 44 local affiliates in every county across the state, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

As educators, we are committed to uplifting all students, and we recognize that students have a diverse range of needs and experiences. Data clearly indicate that schools must do more to support transgender and gender diverse students to ensure they feel welcome at school and safe from harassment and discrimination. Transgender and gender diverse students are more likely to experience bullying and violence at school, and less likely to report feeling connected at school.^{1,2} These

¹ Pampati, Sanjana et al. "School Climate Among Transgender High School Students: An Exploration of School Connectedness, Perceived Safety, Bullying, and Absenteeism." *The Journal of School Nursing* (2020).
<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8106508/>

² Disparities in School Connectedness, Unstable Housing, Experiences of Violence, Mental Health, and Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors Among Transgender and Cisgender High School Students — Youth Risk Behavior Survey, United States, 2023. *Center for Disease Control and Prevention* (2024).
<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/73/su/su7304a6.htm>

negative experiences have real emotional and academic consequences: 72% of transgender students report persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness, and more than 25% of transgender students say they have skipped school because they felt unsafe.³ All students deserve to feel safe at school, and this workgroup presents a timely and necessary forum to identify strategies to protect our transgender and gender diverse students.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report.

³ Ibid.