

Date: March 10, 2026

House Ways and Means Committee

Re: HB1182 Public and Nonpublic Schools - Student Elopement - Locative Devices

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Madam Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Cassandra Moussignac, and I am the CEO and Director of Bravo Kids Inc. and also an LFI teacher working with students with significant disabilities. I serve children and families who often face challenges related to safety awareness, communication, and independence. I am writing to express strong support for House Bill 1182.

House Bill 1182 allows schools to coordinate the voluntary use of locative devices for students who may be at risk of elopement. These devices can help caregivers and school staff quickly locate a child if they leave a supervised environment. The bill also establishes important privacy protections to ensure that any information collected through these devices is handled appropriately.

Students with certain disabilities may wander unexpectedly and may not understand dangers such as traffic, water, or unfamiliar environments. In both my work with families and in the classroom, I have seen how quickly a situation can become unsafe when a child elopes. Tools that allow staff and caregivers to locate a student quickly can save critical time during an emergency.

From both an educator and caregiver support perspective, this legislation provides an important additional layer of protection and peace of mind. Schools work hard to keep every student safe, but when a student leaves a classroom or school grounds unexpectedly, immediate tools to locate them can make a significant difference.

Importantly, House Bill 1182 does not require the use of locative devices. Instead, it allows schools and families to coordinate their voluntary use when appropriate, while respecting family choice and privacy protections.

Legislation like House Bill 1182 helps create safer environments for students who may require additional protections due to disability, cognitive differences, or medical conditions. By allowing schools and families to collaborate on safety planning, Maryland can better protect vulnerable students while supporting caregivers and educators.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 1182.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cassandra Moussignac

CEO and Director, Bravo Kids Inc.

LFI Teacher

Bowie, Maryland

Email: Cbonhomme@bravokidsinc.com

Phone: 718-809-8311