



HB1310 - Public High Schools – Student Transcripts – Traumatic Loss Notation
Ways & Means Committee - March 11, 2026
Position: Favorable

The Maryland Out of School Time Network (MOST) is a statewide organization dedicated to closing opportunity gaps by expanding the quantity and quality of afterschool and summer learning opportunities for young people. MOST also serves as the backbone organization for the Maryland Coalition for Community Schools and MENTOR Maryland | DC.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1310. We commend Delegate Coley and the bill's many co-sponsors for bringing this thoughtful legislation forward, and we support the amendment to extend the opportunity to any student who loses a parent or guardian, regardless of the cause of death.

At its core, HB1310 is about giving young people the opportunity to tell their own story. A transcript is a snapshot, and for a student who lost a parent during high school, that snapshot may capture the worst period of their life rather than a true picture of their potential. A dip in grades, a pattern of absences, or a difficult semester in an otherwise promising academic career can follow a student into college applications and scholarship reviews without context. This bill gives students the choice to provide that context, in their own words, on their own terms.

Our work is grounded in positive youth development, and a central principle of that framework is that young people are more than their circumstances. Every young person has strengths, resilience, and capacity for growth that a data point alone cannot capture. Policies that create space for students to be seen as whole individuals, rather than reduced to a transcript anomaly, align directly with that philosophy.

The bill's opt-in design is important. The notation is available as a tool for those who want it, with appropriate privacy protections. The bill also wisely involves school counselors, who are well-positioned to inform students and families of this option at a moment when they may not be thinking about transcripts at all. Embedding this conversation into the counseling process helps ensure that students who could benefit from the notation actually know it exists.

Young people face real challenges on their pathways toward college and career. A single difficult period should not define how the world sees their future potential. HB1310 is a practical, student-centered step toward a more complete and fair picture of who our young people are. We urge the committee to give it a favorable report.

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