

Subject: Support for HB 1418 – Public and Nonpublic Schools – Employing Individuals Charged With Crimes – Prohibition

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gina Gibson, and I am a parent and resident of Harford County, Maryland. I am writing to express my support for **HB 1418**, which would prohibit public and nonpublic schools from hiring or retaining employees who have been charged with certain crimes involving harm or risk to children.

As a parent, the most basic expectation I have when sending my child to school is that the adults who interact with students are safe, trustworthy, and held to the highest standards of conduct. Schools are entrusted with the care and supervision of children for a significant portion of the day, and families depend on school systems to prioritize student safety above all else.

HB 1418 helps strengthen that trust by ensuring that individuals who have been charged with serious crimes involving children are not placed in positions that allow access to students while those matters are pending. This is a reasonable safeguard that prioritizes the well-being of children while maintaining clear expectations for school systems, contractors, and employees who work in school settings.

Importantly, the bill also applies to contractors and subcontractors working on school premises, closing a potential gap that could otherwise allow individuals with concerning charges to have unsupervised access to students. Parents should have confidence that all adults working in school environments—whether directly employed or contracted—are subject to consistent safety standards.

As parents, we entrust schools with what matters most to us: our children. Strengthening protections that help prevent individuals facing serious criminal charges from working around students is a common-sense step that reinforces a culture of safety and accountability in Maryland schools.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to give **HB 1418 a favorable report.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gina Gibson
Harford County, Maryland