

HB 530: Task Force on Proactive Review of **Audio and Video Recordings on Special Education Buses:** Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Ways & Means Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for **HB 530** , which creates a Task Force for a proactive review of audio and video recordings on special education buses.

Students riding on special education buses are among **Maryland's most vulnerable children**. Many are nonverbal or have limited ability to report abuse, neglect, or inappropriate conduct. **HB 530** provides an important safeguard to protect these students while also protecting special education aides that ride the buses along with them by ensuring transparency and accountability.

The proactive review of audio and video recordings can deter misconduct, help resolve disputes fairly, and provide objective documentation when concerns arise. This **protects students, reassures parents, and helps school systems** respond promptly and appropriately when incidents occur. Parents should not have to rely on blind trust when their child cannot communicate what happens during the school day, which starts with them riding the bus to school.

HB 530 appropriately balances safety with privacy by limiting access to recordings and establishing clear protocols for use. These safeguards help protect the dignity of students and staff while prioritizing student well-being.

Transparency builds trust. **When parents know there are systems in place to protect their most vulnerable children, confidence in our public schools is strengthened.** **HB 530** is a reasonable, thoughtful step toward greater accountability and student protection in special education settings, including buses.

I respectfully urge you to **support HB 530**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals