

HB 655: Education - Student Behavior - Parent and Guardian Notice and Required Counseling (**Parent and Guardian Accountability Act**): Please vote to SUPPORT this bill.

Dear Ways & Means Committee:

I am writing to respectfully, **strongly support HB 655**, the *Parent and Guardian Accountability Act*, concerning student behavior, required parental notification, and counseling.

Maintaining safe, orderly, and productive learning environments is essential for both students and educators. When serious behavioral issues arise, parents and guardians should be informed promptly and meaningfully involved. Clear communication between schools and families is critical to addressing concerns early, before patterns escalate and negatively affect academic progress or school safety.

HB 655 promotes accountability while also emphasizing support. Requiring parental notification ensures transparency and shared responsibility, and the inclusion of required counseling provides an opportunity for early intervention. Rather than relying solely on punitive measures, this approach encourages constructive solutions that address underlying behavioral or emotional challenges.

Teachers and school administrators are already managing significant classroom disruptions. Providing a structured framework for parental involvement and counseling helps reinforce expectations for conduct and sends a clear message that student behavior is a shared responsibility between schools and families.

Maryland students deserve classrooms where they can learn without ongoing disruption, and educators deserve policies that support their ability to teach effectively. **HB 655** is a reasonable step toward strengthening communication, accountability, and early intervention.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **support HB 655**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals

