

February 11, 2026

Chair Jheanelle K. Wilkins
House Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB507/HB311 – Public Schools - Individuals With Disabilities - Accessibility and
Emergency Planning

Dear Chair Wilkins and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Fello, we write in support of ***SB507/HB311 – Public Schools - Individuals With Disabilities - Accessibility and Emergency Planning.***

Across Maryland, Fello is building communities where people belong. With a team of more than 650 employees, Fello supports over 5,000 people with disabilities each year – creating opportunities that empower people to live the lives they choose. From advancing equity and respect to expanding access and connection, inclusion is at the heart of everything we do. One powerful way this comes to life is through Fello Communities: beautiful, safe, and accessible rental housing that offers choice and stability for residents across income levels, from affordable to market-rate homes.

SB507/HB311 would improve school safety by requiring each local school system to review accessibility for students with disabilities as part of its regular safety evaluations. Too often, accessibility challenges are not identified until an emergency occurs, placing students with disabilities at greater risk and limiting their ability to fully and safely participate in the school environment.

The bill would also require schools to document situations in which a public school facility became inaccessible to a student with a disability, particularly when those barriers could interfere with evacuation or emergency response. By keeping the required annual report confidential and limiting who can access it, SB507/HB311 appropriately protects student privacy while still promoting accountability. Overall, these provisions support safer, more inclusive school environments and help ensure that all students are protected in emergency situations.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a favorable report on SB507/HB311.

Sincerely,


Jonathon Rondeau
President & CEO

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