

Testimony in Opposition to SB 0218 ~ State Superintendent of Schools - Prolonged State of Emergency - Authority to Declare - House Ways and Means Same as HB0288

To the Honorable Members of the Ways and Means and Education, Energy and Environment Committee:

I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to SB 0218.

Giving the authority to the Superintendent is an attempt to make the decision to shut down education for children across the state for an indefinite period into a merely administrative decision. The damage done to children's education by the hastily imposed and enormously prolonged COVID school closures damaged many children's educational progress in ways that are difficult to overstate. The last thing we need is the velvet carpet for repetition which this bill provides.

I oppose this bill because Maryland residents are already dealing with rising property taxes, increasing fees, and a high cost of living. We should focus on making Maryland more affordable and keeping residents and businesses in our state, not passing additional legislation that may increase costs, create more bureaucracy, or place additional burdens on taxpayers and businesses.

Maryland continues to lose residents and businesses to other states with lower taxes and fewer regulations. We need to focus on economic growth, public safety, education, and infrastructure, rather than expanding government mandates and regulations.

Please consider the long-term financial impact and unintended consequences of this legislation on Maryland residents and businesses.

For these reasons, I respectfully request an unfavorable report on SB 0218.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brigitta Mullican, Rockville, MD 20851 ~ Legislative District 17