



**Testimony in SUPPORT of
House Bill 1310: Public High Schools – Student Transcripts – Traumatic Loss Notation**

**House Ways and Means Committee
Position: Favorable**

March 11, 2026

At Strong Schools Maryland, we work to support the faithful implementation and full funding of the promises legislated through the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. The Blueprint envisions a public education system where all students can feel safe, supported, and prepared to succeed in school and beyond. For this reason, Strong Schools Maryland offers favorable testimony in support of HB1310 – Public High Schools – Student Transcripts – Traumatic Loss Notation.

HB1310 allows a high school student who has experienced a traumatic loss to request a notation on their official transcript recognizing that loss, with standardized language developed by the State Department of Education. This provision acknowledges that significant personal trauma can have a meaningful impact on a student’s academic experience and performance.

The death of a parent during childhood or adolescence is one of the most destabilizing experiences a young person can face. Grief can affect concentration, attendance, emotional regulation, and academic outcomes¹. A transcript notation provides important context for colleges, scholarship committees, and other postsecondary institutions reviewing a student’s record, ensuring that students who experience profound loss are evaluated with appropriate understanding.

We are especially supportive of the proposed friendly amendment to expand the bill so that the traumatic loss notation applies to the death of a parent from any cause, not solely cancer. The death of a parent at a young age is deeply traumatic regardless of the cause, and limiting recognition to a single circumstance risks exclusion.

By acknowledging the real impact that traumatic loss can have on students’ academic journeys, HB1310 helps ensure that young people are not unfairly disadvantaged during college admissions or other postsecondary opportunities. This is a compassionate and practical step toward recognizing the challenges students face beyond the classroom.

For these reasons, Strong Schools Maryland urges the House Ways and Means Committee to issue a favorable report on HB1310.

Please contact Riya Gupta at riya@strongschoolsmaryland.org for additional questions.

1. Liu C, Grotta A, Hiyoshi A, Berg L, Rostila M. School Outcomes Among Children Following Death of a Parent. JAMA Netw Open. 2022;5(4):e223842. Published 2022 Apr 1. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.3842