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March 10, 2026

RE: HB 1545 Frederick County - Special Education Video and Audio Recording Program
Position: Favorable

Dear Chairwoman Wilkins , Vice Chair Feldmark, and Honorable Members of The Ways and Means Committee,

I am Alita-Geri Carter, the owner of Qualequity Access, LLC., a consultancy grounded in data-driven transformation that advocates for quality, equity, access, and accessibility in healthcare and education. I am the mother of two children with disabilities, a former practicing nursing practitioner, special education parent advocate, and public health servant.

I am writing to express my strong support for **HB 1545** which requires the installation of video recording devices in self-contained special education classrooms in Frederick County, MD. This legislation represents a critical step in ensuring the safety, dignity, and protection of our most vulnerable student populations.

HB 1545 specifically addresses classrooms where students may have intellectual disabilities or severe disabilities that impact their abilities to communicate or recall the sequence of events leaving them unable to report incidents of abuse or neglect. This bill provides them with a "silent witness" that ensures their experiences are documented.

Targeted Protection: It ensures specialized instructional settings are monitored to deter misconduct and protect both students and educators.

Thoughtful Privacy Boundaries: The bill strikes an important balance by prohibiting video recording inside bathrooms and changing areas, utilizing audio-only devices in those sensitive locations to maintain dignity.

Unbiased Oversight: By mandating an independent, third-party custodian to secure and routinely review these recordings, the program builds trust and guarantees that the footage is handled fairly and transparently.

Furthermore, this bill protects our dedicated educators and staff by providing objective evidence that can refute false or unsubstantiated allegations. By creating a clear record of classroom interactions, we foster a safer environment for everyone involved in the educational process. I urge the Committee to issue a **favorable report** on HB 1545 to ensure that all students in Frederick County Public Schools are safe regardless of their ability to communicate and are protected and supported in their learning environments.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alita-Geri Carter, MSN, DNP-C, CPNP-PC, BCPA, PMP
Resident, Howard County, MD