

HB0123: School Systems - Reportable Offenses - Alterations: Please cast a **FAVORABLE** vote **TO SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Ways & Means Committee:

I am writing to express my **strong support for HB 0123**, which updates and clarifies reportable offenses within Maryland's school systems.

Student safety must be the top priority of our education system. **HB 0123 strengthens that commitment by ensuring serious offenses are reported appropriately, consistently, and in a timely manner**, allowing schools, parents, and law enforcement to respond before situations escalate and more harm occurs.

Clear reporting requirements protect **students, educators, and administrators alike**. When offenses are ambiguously defined or inconsistently reported, dangerous behavior can be minimized, ignored, or handled behind closed doors—often at the expense of student safety and parental trust. **HB 0123 promotes transparency, accountability, and common-sense standards** that help schools act decisively while respecting due process.

Importantly, this bill supports a **safe learning environment without criminalizing routine discipline issues**. By focusing on reportable offenses that genuinely implicate safety concerns, **HB 0123** strikes the right balance between maintaining order in schools and ensuring that serious misconduct receives appropriate attention.

Parents have a right to know when serious incidents occur in their children's schools, and educators deserve clear guidance on their reporting obligations. **HB 0123 provides that clarity**, strengthens cooperation with law enforcement when necessary, and reinforces confidence in Maryland's public education system.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **support HB 0123**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals