

Oral Testimony in Support of HB0530

Submitted by: Yi Han, Parent of two children with Autism

Good afternoon, Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Yi Han, and I am the parent of two children with autism who rely on special education transportation in Howard County. I am here to strongly support **HB0530**, which would establish a Task Force to study the proactive review of audio and video recordings on special education buses.

Children with disabilities are among the most vulnerable students, and recent incidents in Maryland highlight the serious risks they face:

- In **Howard County**, an 80-year-old bus aide was charged with **assault and fourth-degree sexual offense** after video footage showed him hitting a 13-year-old nonverbal student and inappropriately touching another.
- In **Baltimore County**, a school bus aide allegedly **put her hand around a 7th-grade student with autism's neck and slammed him to the ground**.
- In **Montgomery County**, a former bus driver was found guilty of **sexually abusing four special needs students** while transporting them on his bus.

While many buses have surveillance cameras, **footage is usually reviewed only after complaints**, not proactively. Drivers must focus on operating the vehicle, and aides often lack sufficient supervision, leaving vulnerable students without consistent protection.

HB0530 would allow Maryland to **study how technology and procedures can proactively review recordings** to detect unsafe behavior before more students are harmed. This is about prevention, not punishment — ensuring that children who cannot report abuse are still protected.

As a parent, I know how crucial it is to keep children safe during transportation. Proactive monitoring is a practical, necessary step to prevent abuse and protect Maryland's most vulnerable students.

I urge the Committee to **favorably report HB0530**. Thank you for your attention and commitment to student safety.