



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

March 11, 2026

House Ways & Means Committee

House Bill 1310 — Public High Schools — Student Transcripts — Traumatic Loss Notation

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Prince George's County Council, we respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of House Bill 1310.

HB 1310 provides that a Maryland public high school student who has experienced a traumatic loss including the death of a parent, sibling, or other close family member may request the inclusion of a traumatic loss notation on the student's official academic transcript. The bill also directs the Maryland State Department of Education to develop standardized language for such notations, and requires local school systems to adopt that language upon student request.

While HB1310 is a simple bill, this important legislation will have a meaningful impact on students and their futures. First, it acknowledges that life-altering personal loss can affect a student's academic performance, attendance, and overall school engagement. A student's transcript traditionally a summary of grades and credits should not be blind to real, documented hardship that may have disrupted educational progress.

Second, creating a standardized, dignified notation allows students to share context with postsecondary institutions, scholarship programs, or employers without having to disclose private details in less formal or less equitable ways. Linking personal adversity with academic records in a respectful and controlled manner can help students avoid misinterpretation of their educational history. The standardized language requirement helps ensure equity, consistency, and dignity in how such information is communicated.

Prince George's County has a diverse student population, many of whom experience disproportionate exposure to trauma and loss. HB 1310 empowers students with a mechanism to reflect their lived experiences meaningfully, reducing stigma around trauma and supporting transition to next-level opportunities.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on House Bill 1310.

Thank you.

Prepared by: Ashlar Government Relations on behalf of Prince George's County Council