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From: Ronza Othman, President
National Federation of the Blind of Maryland
15 Charles Plaza, #3002
Baltimore, MD 21201 president@nfbmd.org

To: Ways & Means Committee

The members of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland urge the House Ways & Means Committee to give a favorable report to SB0507. This bill would require local schools to proactively assess accessibility barriers for students with disabilities in their emergency plans and to disclose such barriers to relevant individuals.

Students with disabilities are entitled to safe learning environments, including when there are emergencies. Many accessibility barriers that arise during an emergency can either be prevented or an alternate approach applied to ensure the students' safety. This bill ensures both.

For those reasons, we ask for a favorable report on SB0507. For questions, please contact me at President@nfbmd.org or at 443-426-4110.