

In Favor of HB0522

Education - Home and Hospital Teaching Program for Students - Report

Greetings,

I would like to thank everybody for the opportunity to share and highlight the need to look at the Homebound and Hospital Teaching Program in Maryland. Currently students who participate in the program only receive a minimum standard of 6 hours of instructional education services. One of most vulnerable population of students in the whole State of Maryland. We need a collection of data across the state to see if we are adequately addressing the educational needs of students who cannot attend a traditional classroom setting do to a physical or emotional condition.

Physicians traditionally provide the referral to access Homebound and Hospital Teaching. However, upon transition back into traditional classroom setting the Physician is not included in the process. Emotionally for a student it can be overwhelming to transition from a 6 hour per week of instruction to a full day academic week of instruction. The grade and reporting process for teachers can also be overwhelming upon transitioning. Attendance is not reported on the report card accurately and grades do not reflect the academic performance of the student. In addition we don't know if quality of services in the program are even similar to each neighboring jurisdiction. We need to make sure we know exactly what we are doing across the state regarding this particular program. Some of most fragile students battling illnesses that could be fatal, heavily relied on Homebound and Hospital Teaching to bring a sense of normalcy in their lives. Absolutely no excuses for making an effort to dive in and take a good look at this program.

We have a responsibility of making sure we are doing this right, for everybody involved in this process. I'm encouraging you to please pass this legislation with full support like we did last year. Make a positive difference, move forward together and set a high standard for all students, especially our most fragile students in the State of Maryland. I believe together we can definitely do this, Mom is counting on you!

Best Regards,
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