

MARY L. WASHINGTON, PH.D
Legislative District 43
Baltimore City

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee

Chair
Joint Committee on Ending
Homelessness

Chair
Joint Committee on Children,
Youth, and Families



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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SUPPORT – SB 470
**Institute for Innovation and Implementation - Pregnant, Expecting,
and Parenting Students - Data Collection and Report**

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 25, 2021

Testimony of Senator Mary Washington

Chair Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully urge you to vote favorable on Senate Bill 470, which institutes a pilot program in 5 jurisdictions to evaluate model policy to improve the educational outcomes of our 2,000 Maryland students who are pregnant or parenting each year.

The partnership with the Institute for Innovation and Implementation will ensure that school administrators are properly trained on accurate data collection methodologies, while respecting the privacy and needs of pregnant, expectant, and parenting youth. This partnership is essential in ensuring the sustainability of data collection for these youth, and their expertise will help reduce the high dropout and school pushout rates across our state. The school districts identified for this project representative of the area with the highest teen birth rate representative of the five major regions in Maryland according to the state vital statistic reports.

This program will close gaps in reporting and data dissemination, and increase the odds that parenting students achieve their academic goals to better provide for themselves and their children.

For these reasons, I ask you for a favorable report on SB470.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Washington".

Senator Mary Washington, District 43, Baltimore City