

HB183: Public Information Act-Revision (Equitable Access to Records Act)

Hello Chair Person and Committee Members,

My name is Ellen Zavian, as an attorney, member of the safetech MCCPTA committee, and mother of a child in Montgomery County, Maryland, my multiple requests for MCPS and BOE for documents has fallen way short of the truth.

For example, when asking for the Google Suite contracts, I get 100+ pages of marketing material from Google. This is after I was charged over a \$1000.00.

The former Chair of the SafeTech committee has asked MCPS for Radiofrequency reports for Mont. Co. Public School cell towers. Information received was incomplete.

This was the same result when she asked for WSSC RFP for Independent Research Report of Human Health Affects of Smart Meters. First request obtained for no fee. Further search was to be charged \$340. I appealed on the premise that it was in the public interest to ensure bidding process was fair/unbiased. General Manager declined the appeal.

MCPS also recently changed their rules on emails and started deleting emails every 30 days. This just makes it difficult to get conversations between public officials.

Over the years, myself along with other parents have tried on multiple occasions to obtain information from the Montgomery County School System and Board of Education to ensure they are committed to being transparent and held accountable for their actions.

Unfortunately, we get incomplete or push back on these basic requests.

The PIA Bill before you is so needed. I urge the Committee to please say Yes and Pass the revisions. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me personally.

Ellen M. Zavian

February 9, 2021