



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**TESTIMONY OF DELEGATE PAM QUEEN**  
**HB 83 – Public and Nonpublic Schools - Electric Retractable Room Partitions**  
**- Operation Requirements**  
**SUPPORT**

Greetings Chair Anne Kaiser, Vice-Chair Alonzo Washington, and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

This bill is a proactive step to require the State Department of Education to develop, disseminate, and publish online guidelines on the safe operation of electric retractable room partitions; require annual safety reviews, evaluation and to establish standards for safe electric retractable room partitions operated in a public or nonpublic school.

Unfortunately, the impetus for this bill is the tragic death of a 9 year old student in a Fairfax County school. Although in the last decade, similar tragedies have occurred throughout the Country. In 2019, Virginia enacted provisions as outlined in HB83 to provide standards for the operation and type of electronic room partitions allowed in public schools. This issue was brought to my attention by Montgomery County's state government liaison.

This is an important proactive step to ensure all public schools are safe for our children. The Senate cross-file of this bill is SB104 which is in the same posture. I seek a favorable recommendation for HB83 for the safety of our children.