

**House Bill 226: Public Schools-Self-Contained Special Education Classrooms-Use of Video Recording Devices**

**POSITION: Support**

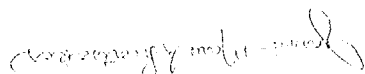
**Hearing: Ways and Means 2/3/2022**

I am in support of HB226 to allow cameras in self contained special education classrooms in Maryland. Surveillance cameras have become the cornerstone of security everywhere in today's world and schools are no exception. There are surveillance cameras in schools as a safety and security measure and a deterrent to crimes in our school hallways, front offices, gymnasiums, cafeterias and exteriors. Video surveillance in self contained special education classrooms will add a layer of protection for nonverbal students who can not come home and tell their parents about what happened to them in school as these specialized classrooms support many students who can not rely on speech alone to be heard and understood.

Camera surveillance footage would only be viewed when a concern of abuse, harm or neglect is alleged. The footage would be unmonitored and not viewed unless an incident is reported and the videos will not be used to monitor teacher pedagogy or student behavior and placement. Schools are also public spaces and individuals who work in public spaces have a low expectation of privacy. We send our kids to school to be educated in a safe environment and this does not always happen.

Four states (WV, TX, GA, LA) already have cameras in self-contained classrooms and we are hoping that you will support HB226 to ensure vulnerable students and teachers have a third eye to minimize harm to students and protect teachers from a false allegation. A third eye in these classrooms is necessary to determine what happened if a child comes home with bruises, bumps or injuries. We need cameras to be their voices!

Sincerely,



Name: Jeannie-Marie Leoutsakos

Address: 2813 Millers Way Drive Ellicott City MD

21043

Email: jeannie-marie@jhu.edu

Lela Scott

Sincerely,

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spaces and individuals who work in public spaces have a low expectation of privacy. We send our kids to school to be educated in a safe environment and this does not always happen. The footage would be used to monitor teacher pedagogy or student behavior and placement. Schools are also public. Camera surveillance footage would only be viewed when a concern of abuse, harm or neglect is alleged.

understood these special and classrooms support many students who can not rely on speech alone to be heard and students who can not come home and tell their parents about what happened to them in school as surveillance in self-contained classrooms will add a layer of protection for individuals different to other school hallway front office, cafeteria, and exterior. There are no exceptions. There are surveillance cameras in schools as a safety and security measure and surveillance cameras have been the cornerstone of security everywhere in the world and it is a common sense support of HB226 to allow parents a self-contained special education classroom in WV and

Hearing, Ways and Means 2/3/2022

POSITION: Support

Devices

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Email: mrknewerks@gmail.com

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Hearing: Ways and Means 2/3/2022

Name: Patricia Kornore  
Address: 5000 Bob White Ct  
Frickick MD 21703  
Email: pkornore@gmail.com

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Sincerely,

Patricia Kornore  
Co-Chair FC SEEAH

Rosemary Kitzingler & Marjorie Guidan of Bright Futures, LLC  
Parents and Special Education Advocates in Carroll County  
rosemary@brighdfutures.llc  
marjorie@brighdfutures.llc

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We are in support of House Bill 226 to allow cameras in self-contained special education classrooms in Maryland. Our society is under constant surveillance these days, and yet our most vulnerable children do not have that same protection while in school. Imagine what it feels like to have your non-verbal child come home from school with bumps, bruises or scratches but no explanation from the school staff. To see your child suddenly resist going to school but they cannot explain why. We never want to believe that a child can be harmed at school but the fact is that it happens much more frequently than many choose to believe.

This bill would allow camera surveillance footage to be viewed only when a possible issue is brought to the attention of school administration. The video will not be used to monitor teacher instruction or for student behavior/placement. It is not intended as a 'gotcha' for teachers and may in fact be used to counter false allegations of abuse.

Four states have already passed legislation to put cameras in self-contained special education classrooms (WV, TX, GA, LA). We ask that you support HB226 to allow a third eye to watch over Maryland's most vulnerable children.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Kitzingler & Marjorie Guidan  
Bright Futures, LLC

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Parents and Special Education Advocates in Carroll County

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