



SB583 MARYLAND CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY – PUBLIC SCHOOLS – REPORTING OF CLASSROOM DISRUPTIONS

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EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **SB583 Maryland Center for School Safety – Public Schools – Reporting of Classroom Disruptions**. This bill requires the Maryland Center for School Safety to establish a website for anonymous reports of public school classroom disruptions. It also requires the Center to establish an office that reviews and refers classroom disruption reports to the appropriate county superintendent of schools and the county board of education. It also requires a county superintendent and the county board jointly to respond within 45 days after receiving the report.

Safety in public schools is increasingly important to local boards of education as school-related security incidents and threats in Maryland and throughout the nation have increased over the years. As a result, it is essential for educational leaders to be included in the continued development of a comprehensive security plan. While well-intentioned, AACPS has concerns with the proposed legislation. As drafted, the bill does not provide a definition of “classroom disruption” which makes it excessively broad and subject to overly inconsistent interpretation. It is important to note that the

Maryland Center for School Safety already provides an anonymous reporting hotline which serves the same essential purpose of this legislation as it provides the public a means of notification for matters affecting school safety.

The bill also fails to clarify what, if any, actionable information can be developed from a flawed, unreliable, self-selected data set created from individuals who choose to designate anything as a classroom disruption. For example, parents/guardians who may make reports regarding classroom disruptions will largely rely on secondhand information from students that may or may not include context or factual information. We believe that this bill is unnecessary as Maryland currently has the systems in place to allow the public to report school safety concerns.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB583.