

Peggy Cruz  
Annapolis, MD  
[Peggyacruz@yahoo.com](mailto:Peggyacruz@yahoo.com)

Senate Bill 577/House Bill 226 Public Schools – Self–Contained Special Education Classroom –  
Use of Video Recording Devices

Position: Support

Ways and Means Committee 2/3/22

I am writing you asking you to support this bill to allow cameras in self contained classrooms. This measure will help give a voice to the students who are not able to speak for themselves. Advocates for people with disabilities and civil rights attorneys have examined this issue and have concluded that this bill will protect vulnerable students, but also teachers and staff who work in the classrooms and who sometimes experience suspensions from false allegations. Comptroller Mr. Peter Franchot has come out in support of this bill, writing “Special education students deserve the same access to a safe educational environment, and Senate Bill 577 would help protect some of our most vulnerable students by increasing accountability....” Cameras are already in cafeterias, hallways, stairwells, front offices, vestibules, gymnasiums, and exteriors as deterrents against unlawful behavior. They can be powerful, impartial tools when used to document events when those involved have no voice of their own.

Please support HB226 and SB577 to allow cameras in self contained classrooms in MD to ensure protections for our most vulnerable students and staff.

Very respectfully,

Peggy Cruz