

**Education Advocacy Coalition
for Students with Disabilities**

SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**SENATE BILL 577: PUBLIC SCHOOLS—SELF-CONTAINED SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSROOM—USE OF
VIDEO RECORDING DEVICES**

FEBRUARY 16, 2022

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Education Advocacy Coalition for Students with Disabilities (EAC), a coalition of approximately 40 organizations and individuals concerned with education policy for students with disabilities in Maryland, submits this testimony in support of Senate Bill 557, which would require the installation of video cameras in at least 50% of self-contained special education classrooms by the beginning of the 2022-23 school year and 100% of self-contained special education classrooms by the beginning of the 2023-24 school year.

Many EAC members represent or work with families who have expressed concern to us when their children have come home from school with unexplained injuries or reports indicating that restraint or seclusion or other “hands-on” interventions have been used with their children. These families have expressed to us their frustration with not having access to video footage that would enable them to understand what may have occurred during the school day, particularly when because of young age, trauma or disability, their children are unable to share details of their day with their parents. As advocates for all students with disabilities throughout Maryland, a subset of whom are educated in self-contained special education classrooms and whose parents have made clear to us that they support cameras in schools for a variety of reasons, the EAC supports Senate Bill 557.

Please feel free to contact Leslie Seid Margolis, chairperson, at lesliem@disabilityrightsmd.org or 410-370-5730 for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

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