

RE: Senate Bill 0362 - Primary and Secondary Virtual Schools - OPPOSE

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The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair  
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Committee Members,

I am writing to oppose Senate Bill 0362. I am in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade with the ESMEC Blended Virtual Program. I have been sick since 2019 with POTS (postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome), Joint Hypermobility Syndrome, and migraines. Before Covid, I was absent a lot because of all my health problems. When everyone had to do virtual learning, it was easier for me to get my work done because I could be at home and not have to worry about feeling bad in school all the time or leaving early when I was dizzy or having bad headaches. It was hard for the teachers because they weren't used to teaching online. All my teachers in the BVP are trained to teach virtually, and they help me understand what we are doing and are always there to help me if I need it. Ms. Chan is my Student Success Coordinator that meets with me every week to see how I am doing and if I need help with anything. She also talks to me about things I am interested in like creating music and video games. When I was going to in person school, there wasn't anybody there who did that. I have learned so much this year and know I can always go to my teachers or tutors if I need to. I hope I am able to stay in this program, because if I have to go back to in person learning, I will probably go back to being behind in my classes again. My condition doesn't have a cure and even though I take ten different medications every day, I still get lightheaded and dizzy if I stand up for too long. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Sean Ewing