



**Youth As Resources, Inc. (YAR)**  
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**HB 1114- Education - Prohibited Behavior on School Grounds and Property – Application, House Ways and Means Committee**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Good morning members of the House Ways and Means Committee

My name is Khayyum Muhammad and I am testifying on behalf of Youth As Resources (YAR). Youth As Resources is a youth-led grant making, leadership development and community organizing non-profit organization in Baltimore City. YAR is governed by a high functioning Board of Directors comprised of 23 youth and young adults, ages 14-24. Through the efforts of our Board each year, we train and support approximately 400 of our peers as grant writers, leaders, advocates and community organizers.

We are writing to give our full support of HB 1114 specifying that provisions of law prohibiting and penalizing certain disruptive and threatening behavior on certain school grounds and property do not apply to students who commit offenses at the institution they attend or students who commit offenses at another institution while participating in or attending a sporting event or other extracurricular program sponsored at that institution.

We believe that if this bill does not pass, it will be harmful in both the short and long term for our youth, while passing this bill will cause a positive disruption to the school to prison pipeline. Arresting our students for the perceived offence of disruption simply provides more excuses and chances for an abuse of power by law enforcement in our schools. This unfairly impacts the future of our youth and students in schools. If our children are treated like they're criminals, it makes them not want to go to school. Attendance rates are already plummeting, and graduation rates have too. Our youth should not be arrested for school disruptions or disruptive behavior, especially when this behavior is often just teens being teens. For these reasons, we strongly support HB 153, and are urging you to support this bill as well. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Youth As Resources

Khayyum Muhammad  
Board of Directors  
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