



March 3, 2023

Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD. 21401

In Support of HB 1114: Education – Prohibited Behavior on School Grounds - Application

Members of the Maryland House of Delegates Ways and Means Committee.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1500 members and fully support revising the state's education regulations around student conduct in schools and on school grounds.

Too often our state's black and brown children, and especially those with a variety of disabilities have their behavior misinterpreted and criminalized. The school personnel and adults involved in the discipline of these students often do not understand student behaviors. Many students act out due to a variety of reasons, including an inability to communicate their issues to the school personnel tasked with educating them. Sometimes these same students, teens act in ways that adults do not deem as being appropriate, and that leaves the door open to misinterpretation of those behaviors by school personnel.

These students' behaviors sometimes are criminalized by school staff members, police officers and SROs. Often resulting in our children and teens leaving their school buildings in hand cuffs. Leading so many of our black and brown youth down the road of the school to prison pipeline. Del Ruth is trying to change that trend through House Bill 1114. Stopping this trend of criminalizing teen behaviors and saving them from a less than ideal outcome from their time in school. Improving their time spent in the education system by increasing their time spent in classrooms, and not in handcuffs or police stations.

We trust that the changes outlined in HB 1114 will help to further support ALL Maryland students in their school settings. The future success, and mental health of our students depends on many necessary improvements and supports being in place, and implemented with fidelity, as we begin the many steps needed to support our students as we fully implementing the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. And thereby improving student outcomes today and into the future of Maryland's education system.

Thank you all for supporting the education, health and wellbeing of all Maryland students including those with disabilities. Please support our students and return a favorable report on HB 1114.

Mr. Richard Ceruolo | richceruolo@gmail.com

Parent, Lead Advocate and Director of Public Policy

Parent Advocacy Consortium: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ParentAdvocacyConsortium>