



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Testimony From Senator Jill P. Carter
SJ0004 Resolution – Division of Children and Youth - Student Truancy From
School - Unit, Policies, and Report
On March 6th 2024**

Mr. Chairman, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I am in full support of this resolution that encourages the Department of Education to dedicate resources to addressing student truancy in Maryland schools. Additionally, I commend the proposal to require the Division of Children and Youth in the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services to develop strategies to combat this pressing issue.

Truancy among students not only jeopardizes their individual academic success but also undermines the goals outlined in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. By failing to attend school regularly, students miss out on vital learning opportunities, leading to academic setbacks that can have long-lasting consequences for their future prospects and the state's overall educational outcomes.

The proposed addition of a dedicated unit within the Department of Education to address student truancy demonstrates a proactive approach to tackling this complex issue. Such a unit would be instrumental in developing and implementing evidence-based strategies to identify and support at-risk students, engage families and communities, and address the underlying factors contributing to truancy.

Furthermore, the requirement for the Division of Children and Youth to develop specific strategies underscores the state's commitment to holistic

approaches that recognize the intersectionality of issues affecting student attendance. By integrating efforts across government agencies, community organizations, and educational institutions, Maryland can better coordinate resources and support systems to ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed.

I urge this committee to vote favorably on this resolution in recognition of the urgent need to address student truancy in Maryland. By prioritizing attendance and engagement in our schools, we can fulfill the promise of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and provide all students with the quality education they deserve.

Respectfully,

Jill P. Carter