

UNFAVORABLE
House Bill 206
Education – Student Behavior – Parent and Guardian Notice and Required
Counseling (Parent and Guardian Accountability Act)

House Ways and Means Committee
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Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association opposes House Bill 206. House Bill 206 requires a public school principal to provide notice to a parent or guardian of a student's violent and disruptive behavior. Under the bill, it is unlawful for a parent or guardian of a public school student to fail to seek and participate in counseling with the child, after receiving notice of their child's behavior on school grounds or school-related activities. A parent or guardian violating this requirement may be ordered by a court to perform community service.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

MSEA supports expanded access to mental health services and increasing the number of behavioral health professionals to serve students, however, our union adamantly opposes House Bill 206. House Bill 206 does nothing to increase the number of behavioral health professionals in our schools, break down barriers that limit families' access to behavioral health services, or otherwise incentivize positive behavioral outcomes. Rather, the policy penalizes families who may not have the resources or access to behavioral health services. Imposing a community service requirement on a parent or guardian who violates the provisions of the bill will undoubtedly only create more disruption and hardship on working class families who may not have access to behavioral health services.



MSEA encourages legislators to promote policies that expand access to behavioral health services, increase the number of behavioral health staff, and conduct education and outreach to families regarding these services.

We strongly urge the committee to issue an Unfavorable Report on House Bill 206.