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1616 Doctor Jack Rd
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Date: 01/27/2025

Subject: HB0197

As a concerned citizen, a grandparent of a Cecil County Public School student and as a County Council member for Cecil County, I am asking for an UNFAVORABLE position on HB197.

The State should not be dictating what is and is not appropriate for local educational systems when it comes to discipline within the classrooms. The systems that have been forced upon local districts by the State are NOT working.

Classrooms are experiencing a drastic increase in behavior issues which are permitted to go unchecked. Teachers are unable to maintain order in classrooms and receive little to no help from the administration. Students have learned they will face no repercussions for their disruptive behavior therefore it continues from day to day. The disruptive students have no concerns about how their behavior impacts the rest of the class.

Meanwhile, the students who are in the classroom to learn are being forced to go to the library or a safe, quiet space to do their assignments. This is unacceptable.

Educators are not in the classroom to be full-time disciplinarians. They are there to teach and address minor, occasional infractions by a student. They were not trained as psychologists. They are not parents to their students. They do not deserve to have objects thrown at them, students hitting or kicking them, and they do not deserve to have students spitting on them.

STOP this insanity. Restorative Practices do not work as intended. Restore order to classrooms. Provide consequences to students who misbehave. Involve parents in the disciplinary process.

For these reasons, I request an UNFAVORABLE position on HB197.