

**HB 0197**

**Good afternoon, Chair Atterberry and Vice Chair Wilkins, and committee members. For the record, I am Delegate Cheryl Pasteur. Today, I return to present to you a bill for Restorative Practices Schools. What you did for the children in Maryland last Session by moving the bill was the beginning of new hope for them. Chair Atterberry, with gratitude, you allowed me to work with Delegate Ebersole and Mr. Johnston to create THIS Session's HB 197 in which MSDE is asked and guided to create a comprehensive plan integrating restorative practice into daily school practices and activities as well as behavioral protocols which will educate our 21<sup>st</sup> century children in ways applicable to our 21<sup>st</sup> century lives. Thank you!**

**This year, you work with diligence to meet the needs of our students while meeting the challenges of the State's budget. What Restorative Practices offers is an instructional, behavioral, and communal path for all students, pre-k through grade12, regardless of economics or demographics. It leads to self- responsibility , self-determination, and then self-actualization...what we want for our children . I have seen these practices employed in schools, which are vastly different in several ways, in Frederick County, thank you Delegate Miller, and in Baltimore City, and the students are flourishing. So, for naysayers who say that teachers will balk at another plan, I say they don't understand RP. Teachers want to be able to teach and not spend class periods disciplining their students . With a comprehensive plan, they will be able to teach more and discipline far less. As a current BCPS educator stated, " I was so excited when the community training for restorative practices was held. I felt compelled, that's the truth, that we needed to do this so we can stop putting them out. I want to teach my students." Remember restorative practices are to benefit instruction which include aspects of restorative justice as a sub-set. Fortunately, MSDE, currently, offers workshops to teachers and school administrators in restorative practices. Certainly, the Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Enrichment has already laid the groundwork for creating a comprehensive plan for any LEA or school interested in making these practices its educational paradigm.**

**I am asking you to pass this bill again and encourage the Senate to give it a vote and pass it this Session.**

**Delegate Cheryl Pasteur**