



everychild.one voice.®

5 Central Avenue
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
Phone: (410) 760-6221
(800) 707-7972
Fax: (410) 760-6344
www.mdpta.org

Written Testimony Submitted for the Record to the
Maryland House of Delegates
Ways and Means Committee
For the Hearing on
State Department of Education – Social Security Numbers of Students
(HB 378)
February 8, 2018

SUPPORT

Maryland PTA represents thousands of volunteer members and families in 900 public schools. For nearly 103 years, our mission has been to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. Maryland PTA is comprised of families, students, teachers, administrators, and business as well as community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and family engagement in Maryland. As the state's oldest and largest child advocacy organization, Maryland PTA is a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families, schools and communities and a strong advocate for public education.

Maryland PTA submits this testimony in support of House Bill 378, State Department of Education - Social Security Numbers of Students. This bill prevents the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) from collecting, holding or storing the social security numbers of any current, former, or prospective student. It essentially eliminates MSDE from obtaining social security numbers of students.

Maryland PTA and the students and families we represent understand the value of collecting student data to support educational outcomes. While parents support the access to, and use of, student data to improve teaching and learning they also believe that there must be a clear justification for the need and benefit to access and use their child's data in educational settings. Nonetheless, despite support for the use of student data, parents are concerned about the privacy and security of their child's personally identifiable information and educational record; and the most commonly used information for fraudulent purposes is social security numbers (SSNs).

According to the fiscal and policy note several school systems have already stopped providing SSNs to MSDE. And, while the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center (MLDS) advises that it needs SSNs to match K-12 student records to workforce data, MSDE obtains data from the Motor Vehicle Administration to fill the gaps. Because Maryland implemented the use of a statewide student identification number in 2008 we believe this bill helps transition faster the use identifiable data that makes current, former or prospective students less vulnerable to pervasive and systemic fraudulent activity.

For these reasons above, Maryland PTA encourages your vote to SUPPORT House Bill 378.

Testimony is presented on the behalf of

Latisha Corey

Latisha Corey, President
Maryland Parent Teacher Association
president@mdpta.org