Maryland PTA is the state’s oldest and largest child advocacy organization that serves as a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families, schools and communities and a strong advocate for public education. We represent thousands of volunteer members in 900 public schools and we are 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. For nearly 104 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 submits this testimony in support of House Bill 486, Education – Personnel Matters – Child Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Prevention. This bill sets forth a more thorough process for the hiring of school employees who have direct contact with minors and K-12 students in public and nonpublic schools, by requiring that all job applicants to county boards of education, nonpublic schools or contracting agencies who will have direct contact with minors submit information regarding former employment and the existence of ongoing investigations or findings of child sexual abuse. Additionally, this bill prohibits county boards of education, nonpublic schools or contractors from entering into any contracts or agreements that have the effect of suppressing information relating to an investigation of a report of suspected child sexual abuse or sexual misconduct by a current or former employee. It is necessary to bring Maryland within full compliance of federal law that prohibits school jurisdictions from knowingly concealing a former employee’s history from future employers within other jurisdictions.

For the reasons stated above, Maryland PTA supports House Bill 486 and recommends a favorable report.

Testimony is presented on the behalf of

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