

**NetChoice** *Promoting Convenience, Choice, and Commerce on the Net*

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February 17, 2016

The Honorable Anne Kaiser, Majority Leader  
350 House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Opposition to HB 430 – Student Data Privacy Council**

Dear Majority Leader Kaiser,

We thank you for your leadership to enact the Student Privacy Act of 2015.

Last year Maryland took the lead in the country by passing the nationwide gold-standard for student privacy bills, the “Student Privacy Act of 2015.” Whenever we speak to legislators in other states and at the federal level, we point to Maryland as the state that is protecting student privacy and avoiding the unintended consequences of stifling access to technology and innovation.

However, we worry that HB 430 prematurely creates a study committee that will cost tax dollars that could be better spent elsewhere.

The Student Privacy Act of 2015 only went into effect last semester. Schools and vendors are just now implementing and fulfilling its requirements. With only eight months since enactment it is hasty to create a Commission to study its effect.

Moreover, rather than creating a new regulatory scheme to triplicate existing efforts, when the time is right, it would be a better use of resources to use the Joint Committee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Biotechnology or the Maryland Cybersecurity Council to conduct the analysis.

Thank you again on your leadership regarding student privacy, but at this time, it’s too soon for the additional entity created by HB 430.

Thank you for considering our views and please let me know if we can provide further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl Szabo".

Carl Szabo  
Policy Counsel, NetChoice

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