

# BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

2644 Riva Road • Annapolis • Maryland • 21401

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**BILL:** SB217 PUBLIC SCHOOLS - STUDENT SUNSCREEN USE - POLICY

**HEARING DATE:** JANUARY 31, 2018

**COMMITTEE:** EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

**POSITION:** OPPOSE

**CONTACT PERSON:** Jeanette Ortiz, Esq., *Legislative & Policy Counsel* (410.703.5352)

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The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes **SB217 PUBLIC SCHOOLS - STUDENT SUNSCREEN USE - POLICY**. This bill would require a school system to create a new policy regarding the use of sunscreen by students. Specifically, SB217 would require schools systems to develop a new policy that would allow students to carry sunscreen at school or school-sponsored activities without school permission, and to authorize staff members to apply sunscreen on a student under certain circumstances.

The single most important strategic goal of Anne Arundel County Public Schools is to accelerate the academic learning and engagement of all students while eliminating all achievement, experience, and opportunity gaps. To that end, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County supports local board discretion to adopt policies and allocate resources to support improvements in student physical health and fitness. As such, we oppose SB217 as it takes away from our primary goal of educating, impedes on local board discretion and presents many issues for school systems.

While we understand the importance of sun safety, the requirements set forth in SB217 bill would require teachers to take instructional time away from learning in order to apply sunscreen to each student in the class prior to an outdoor activity – such requirement would be disruptive and adversely impact student learning. We strongly believe that application of sunscreen is a parental/guardian responsibility.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB217.