



February 11, 2020

Written Support

To: Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

Re: *Senate Bill 533 – Education – Teacher Certification – Montessori Schools*

On behalf of Loyola University Maryland's Center for Montessori Education I would like to fully support Senate Bill 533. This Bill will improve the educational outcomes for public school children in Maryland by ensuring that highly trained Montessori Teachers have a pathway to teach in Maryland's Montessori Public Schools.

Loyola University Maryland has been involved in the preparation of Montessori teachers since 1991. It is fully aligned with the teacher preparation standards of the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) and the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE), both of whom are mentioned in the Bill. For too long we have seen the best prepared Montessori teachers in the world flock to other jurisdictions, while non-Montessori teachers are hired to teach in public Montessori schools in Maryland. This bill will reverse that practice and ensure that children in Maryland's Montessori schools receive the best education possible.

In full support,

Sincerely,

Jack Rice M.B.A.

Director, Center for Montessori Education
Faculty, Educational Leadership
School of Education



Phone: 410.617.2308
jhrice@loyola.edu