

TESTIMONY regarding SB1000 and HB1300
By DEE HODGES, PRESIDENT, MARYLAND TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION
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The Maryland Taxpayers Association favors genuine Public School reform that will improve the academic results of our students. Our problem is that real reform has largely not been addressed in this monumental document/proposal.

Testing has shown Maryland student results to have declined. Too many are testing below 50 per cent. Before considering these bills, the Legislature needs to focus on:

Curriculum: The Common Core curriculum needs to be replaced with a real Back to Basics curriculum.

Discipline has not been addressed. There is no substitute for a culture of listening by students in the classroom. The problem is multi-sourced.

- Lawsuits are often frivolous, but expensive, causing zero disciplinary action for students who need it. The laws need to be reviewed to avoid the preponderance of such suits.
- Students may come from poorly functioning home backgrounds like lack of fathers in the home.
- Our laws should be reviewed to avoid the anti-family, anti-marriage laws/regulations within our taxing and social welfare systems.
- The students who are egregiously bullied need help and those who bully need to be stopped.

Competition is needed for the monopoly public schools. Give parents Education Choice.

- **Choice** is cheaper.
- The average private school tuition is \$1500 to \$2000 less than per student public school costs.
- Even Charter Schools function with less because they don't receive capital money.
- Administrations for both private and charter schools are small.
- It is public school bureaucracy that costs the money.

Unaffordable- More taxes are simply unaffordable for most Marylanders. Maryland is anti-business and is typically among the highest taxed states. It's time to change.