



## WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**To:** Delegate Anne R. Kaiser, Chair  
Delegate Alonzo T. Washington, Vice Chair  
Members of the Ways and Means Committee

**From:** Delegate Trent Kittleman, President  
Women's Caucus, Maryland General Assembly

**Date:** 2/26/2020

**Re:** HB1298 County Boards of Education – Pregnant and Parenting Students – Policies and 3 Reports

The Women's Legislative Caucus respectfully submits our support for HB1298 County Boards of Education – Pregnant and Parenting Students – Policies and 3 Reports.

This legislation requires each county board of education to establish a certain policy to support certain goals and improve the educational outcomes of pregnant and parenting students, collect and track certain data, and, on or before June 1 each year, beginning in 2021, submit the data in a certain manner to the University of Maryland Institute for Innovation and Implementation; and requires the Institute to analyze the data and submit certain reports to the General Assembly on or before June 30, 2022, and June 30, 2024; etc.

As you may know, the Maryland Women's Legislative Caucus is a bi-partisan group of 73 women legislators and 8 associate male legislators who are currently serving in the Maryland General Assembly. The Caucus supports legislation that directly affect women and has bi-partisan support. On January 29th of this year, the members of the Caucus voted unanimously to support HB1298.

Graduating from high school is essential for self-sufficiency as an adult. Dropouts earn less – a lot less – than high school graduates, earning 75 percent as much according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Dropouts earn about two-third as much as those with an Associate Degree and less than half as much as college graduates, The are more likely reliance on Medicaid, Medicare and other government programs and tend to have higher rates of criminal activity and incarceration. Keeping young women on track to graduate is a good investment not only in them but also their children. The Caucus respectfully requests a positive action on HB1298.