

HB0119T **EXTREMELY UNFAVORBLE**

This bill has undergone an Orwellian rewrite adding draconian punishment for any school system that doesn't rubber stamp the will of the 14 APPOINTED members of the State Board of Education. It is a my way or the highway bill with the autonomy of all 23 Counties and Baltimore City erased and controlled by just 14 unelected bureaucrats on the State Board of Education. At the same time, this bill also usurps any parental involvement in their child's education by removing the opt out option so that parents will no longer have the option to teach their own children in a manner more suited to their development and appropriate according to their faith.

The way this bill is written, the State Board of Education can continue to demand that each student in a public school be thoroughly indoctrinated to perverted sexual practices perhaps even requiring students to demonstrate proficiency in these matters in order to pass the course. Local School Boards and parents would have no recourse but to follow the direction of Big Brother or have their school system crippled through the withholding of funds by a minority of unelected bureaucrats inflicting their personal beliefs on every public school child in Maryland. More likely than not, this bill will drive many children and good teachers out of the public school system. The less financially endowed will be further burdened by a failing school system losing their better teachers and students to private school.

It is no wonder Baltimore City has 23 schools that have ZERO students able to do math at grade level. Proficiency in math similarly plummeted in Montgomery County where math proficiency dropped below 10% for students in "underrepresented" (Black and Hispanic) communities. The State and many counties continue to dedicate excess resources toward indoctrination (CRT/DEI) and sexualization of our youth while their basic education continues to plummet. Places like Montgomery County cover up the problem by passing and graduating these students anyway often without even making them attend class, but this just deprives these children of the educational foundation required to build upon to be self-sufficient later in life especially when it comes to acquiring a job based on their mental ability instead of their physical ability. We are not doing children favors by failing to educate them in reading, writing, and arithmetic and passing them to the next grade without the skills to succeed. The school system has become a bottomless money pit concentrating its funds on new administrators and indoctrinators rather than classroom teachers and tutors.

In summary, rewritten HB 0119 is a terrible bill that usurps 24 local Boards of Education (most of those ELECTED positions) and millions of parents from having a critical role in the education of their children. Instead, 14 UNELECTED bureaucrats will make all the decisions for your children based on their beliefs alone. I urge the committee to reject HB 0119.

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