



## Board of Carroll County Commissioners

### Carroll County Board of Education



March 28, 2023

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
Education, Energy and the Environment Committee  
2 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: HB119 - County Boards of Education – Curriculum Guides and Courses of Study – Requirements - OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Feldman and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to share our mutual, strong opposition to House Bill 119. This bill was introduced to get local school systems to adopt the state health curriculum. The bill was amended in House Ways and Means Committee and has passed the House in a much worse format. We urge you to assign an unfavorable report to HB 119.

Specifically, this bill mandates that local school systems follow “every element of the policy and guidelines for the program of instruction” for public schools established by the State Board of Education. The bill would also mandate that “all curriculum guides, courses of study, resource materials and other teaching aids” shall be in accordance with the state policy and program of instruction adopted by the State Board.

In these alarming and unprecedented ways, HB 119 reaches into the boardroom and the classroom, severely limiting decision making of local boards, superintendents, department chairs, and teachers in the classroom.

Moreover, the amended HB 119 would empower the State Superintendent of Schools to enforce local compliance by withholding massive amounts of state funding. HB 119 grants absolute authority to the State Superintendent to decide if a local school system is not following every detail of the state guidance and then withhold millions of dollars in state funding. Based on the revised preliminary FY24 State aid figures, that penalty may be up to \$35 million for Carroll County.

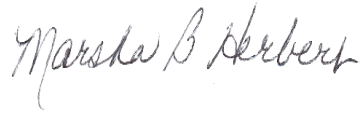
We are hopeful you support local decision-making by locally elected officials in developing curriculum, assessments, grading policies, and instructional programs and the adoption of statewide laws and regulations that reflect a commitment to local governance, professional judgment of local educators, and community engagement.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask for an unfavorable report on HB119.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Edward C. Rothstein in blue ink.

Edward C. Rothstein (COL., Ret)  
President  
Board of County Commissioners

Handwritten signature of Marsha B. Herbert in blue ink.

Marsha B. Herbert  
President  
Board of Education