



Witness: Tara Thompson
Jurisdiction: Baltimore County
Bill: SB566 Family Law - Fundamental Parental Rights
Committee: Senate - Education, Energy and Environment
Position: UNFAVORABLE

My name is Tara Thompson. I am the mother of 3 and the Chair for Moms for Liberty Baltimore County, where I have promised to be a voice for parents and children, while standing up for parental rights.

HB119/SB199 continues to be at the forefront of every parent and legislator conversation since it was first heard back on 2/1/23. It continues to be talked about with criticism and concern locally and in the news nearly 2 months later. During the hearings for HB119 and SB199 there were multiple groups (none of which represented parents) who testified favorable with amendment and the amendment that they requested was that NO OPT-OUT option provided. There are many groups that clearly want to infringe on parental rights and the proof is in the HB 119 and SB 199 testimonies. We are now at the point that sole interest groups have gotten their wish and if this passes you will have completely cut the parents out of the picture and the local school boards out of the picture. This is Tyranny and an absolute overreach of the legislative committee and the Maryland superintendent. Voices will be loud when this goes through. This bill has been the most controversial bill in Annapolis this session, for due reason.

I ask you to:

1. Vote UNFAVORABLE on this bill
2. HOLD HB 119 in committee
3. IF necessary, send it to interim study for some reasonable resolution to allow local elected boards of education to exercise some local flexibility to alter State curriculum guidelines to meet the needs and values of their school districts

We DO NOT want this bill. It's a bill that DOES NOT include Maryland parents in any form in curriculum that is taught to our children. It does not provide an opt out. It does not include ANY local input. If this passes in this form with these extremely restrictive amendments, I assure you Maryland will lose residents, taxpayers, supporters of the public education system, students, and all citizen trust in both the Democrat and Republican parties in Maryland who are making these awful decisions. There is NO reason to pass this legislation.

Regards,
Tara Thompson
Chair
Moms For Liberty - Baltimore County, MD