



*"Protecting Children by Educating the Parents"*

March 28, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

The Baltimore County Parent and Student Coalition, Inc. (BCPASC) is made up of over 5,000 members from around Baltimore County including parents, students, educators, and community members.

BCPASC OPPOSES HB119/SB199 County Boards of Education-Curriculum Guides and Courses of Study-Requirements.

BCPASC opposes this bill because it is not necessary to codify curriculum framework into law. If signed into law, HB119/SB199 will remove local control of curriculum and fundamentally change the historic governance of school systems in the state of Maryland.

Many local public school systems, the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), the Maryland State Board of Education, and state legislators have written letters opposing HB119/SB199 because there has never been a curriculum mandated by the State of Maryland through the legislature in the history of the state.

HB119/SB199 with approved amendments removes local control from Board of Education representatives elected by their communities. HB119/SB199 is complete overreach and similar to the statewide mask mandate implemented by the State Superintendent, State Board of Education, and Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review that was ended after strong pushback and a threatened lawsuit.

HB119/SB199 with amendments is educational coercion and extortion with financial penalty which may well be in violation of Maryland State Statute 2-1202. [Maryland Statute 3-1202](#) Maryland county school boards are already coping with formulating plans to comply with the requirements for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future set forth by the Accountability and Implementation Board to prevent penalty of 25% of funding cut from their budgets.

HB119/SB199 creates a one size fits all precedent to education. Maryland public school systems have seen a downward trend in academic outcomes over the last decade. We are demanding the State Superintendent, the State Board of Education, and the State Legislature to focus on actions that will improve the educational outcomes of ALL Maryland public school students and this bill simply interferes with local education agencies ability to address their students' needs.

BCPASC is asking you to vote UNFAVORABLE on HB119/SB199.

Sincerely,

Amy Adams, BCPASC President

Mary A. Taylor, BCPASC Vice President

