

Oppose HB 119

Dear Senator Feldman,

As your constituent I strongly urge you to oppose HB119 - County Boards of Education - Curriculum Guides and Courses of Study - Requirements.

As a concerned citizen and parent, I strongly believe that local school boards must be able to determine their own curricula without interference from the state superintendent. It is imperative that the decision-making process for what is taught in our schools is left to those who are closest to the students and the community, with parents being the first to know how and what their children are being taught in public schools.

It is important to acknowledge that children of the same age may be on different development levels. Some topics, such as sex education or controversial political issues, may be appropriate for some, but not all children of a particular grade. In most cases, only the parents or guardians know whether their children are ready for such topics and in what form. Thus, parents must be given the ability to opt out of such topics if they feel that the material goes against their family's beliefs or values.

Moreover, taxpayers are invested in the creation and implementation of school curricula and must be able to observe and participate in the process. We have a right to know how our tax dollars are being spent and what our children are learning in school. Transparency and accountability in this process is crucial to ensure that our children are receiving the best education possible.

Lastly, public school curricula must be factually sound and any inclusion of new ideology and/or methodology must be evidence-based, demonstrably lead to positive outcomes, and have sufficient time for discussion and review in advance. If the Maryland Department of Health develops an age-appropriate comprehensive health framework, it will be a welcome source and a reference for the school districts developing their curricula. Make the state curriculum a recommendation, not a requirement.

I sincerely hope you will reject this bill.

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