

Witness: Katherine Strauch Sullivan  
Jurisdiction: Baltimore County  
Bill: HB0119 Primary and Secondary Education - Comprehensive Health Education Framework  
Sponsor: Delegate [Atterbeary](#)  
Position: AGAINST

Dear Committee,

I can't sugar coat this: The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics 2021-2022 school year assessment results were abysmal. Here is a small sampling:

The 2021-2022 ELA assessments:

- 45% proficient in grades 3 and 4
- 40% proficient in grade 5
- 53% of 10th grade English students were proficient High school English 10th

In math, the results were even more concerning:

- Only 17.6% of sixth grade students were proficient in math
- Just 6.5% of students who took the grade 8 assessment were proficient
- Only 14.5% high school students tested proficient in Algebra I

**We must prioritize reading, writing, and math.** We must not be distracted by side programs that will divert our eyes off our children's proficiency in ELA and Math. It is not the job or duty of public education to offer a comprehensive health plan for our children.

All programs which are not created for the purpose of teaching students reading, writing, and math should be optional programs parents can opt into if they are interested.

Sincerely,

Katherine Sullivan  
Mother of 4 Maryland Public School Children  
Baltimore County