

Good Afternoon,

House Bill 119 will force students to swallow your ideology that conflicts with many parent's values across the state of Maryland. A good educational system holds the line across various ideologies and focuses on academics. The academics in my county (Harford County) have suffered devastating consequences with this trend of watering down curriculums. Some courses have been completely eliminated. Reading proficiencies, the past 20 years for elementary students have dropped anywhere from 20% to 50% depending on what district you are looking at. The educational system or should I say the non-educational system has become more focused on pushing activism and endorsing the beliefs of special interest groups than teaching traditional academics. Every time the State mandates new lessons for the pupils in the school system, standard academics are sacrificed at the alter of the General Assembly. This is becoming a crisis. The school system has limited time, funding, labor, and education resources to prepare students to fill the future job market. Removing more resources from academics continues to erode their future. This Bill would strengthen centralized power and weaken local power. Why do you want to remove the voice of parents and local school boards? This bill would weaken parent's ability to be involved in the educational system. It will weaken the local board of education. We pay the school superintendents hundreds of thousands of dollars to be nothing more than a figure head. I encourage the assembly to eliminate HB 119 and oppose state overreach. Thank you.

