

**SB 189 - Favorable**  
**Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee;

Please give Senate Bill 189, regarding the development of content standards and implementation of inclusive and diverse English Language Arts, a favorable report.

It's no secret that many states and districts in this country have been censoring and outlawing materials that reflect the diversity of the United States of America. A significant percentage of materials that have been eradicated from school curricula and libraries in these states have involved Black, Brown, and LGBTQ+ people, histories, and authors. This outright bigotry should be loudly countered by the actions in our own state. Senate Bill 189 is one way to do so.

I live in Pasadena, Maryland (Anne Arundel County) where there is a long, documented history of racism, and more recent blatant attacks on LGBTQ+ students. Among many in Pasadena, "diversity" and "inclusion" are considered bad things. The group Moms for Liberty has a strong presence in Pasadena, and minoritized students have suffered the brunt of their abuse. Some students have learned to be prejudiced from their parents in this largely insulated community, and have bullied, harassed, and assaulted Black, Brown, and LGBTQ+ students. Creating standards that promote diversity and encourage safe environments for students might help counter the intolerance that some parents teach their children. Additionally, these standards would hinder the actions of the pro-censorship Board of Education members in various Maryland counties.

I urge you to give Senate Bill 189 a Favorable report to improve our education system and better protect children in the schools. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Debi Jasen  
Pasadena, Maryland 21122