



## Maryland Retired School Personnel Association

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### House Bill 795

### In Opposition Of

### Education – Curriculum Content Standards - Peace and Conflict Studies (Peace and Conflict Studies Education Act)

### Way and Means Committee

Hearing: February 14, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

Dear Honorable Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair, and Honorable Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, Vice Chair, and distinguished Ways and Means Committee members,

### The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) opposes HB795 Education – Curriculum Content Standards - Peace and Conflict Studies (Peace and Conflict Studies Education Act)

It is the position of MRSPA that curriculum decisions must be the responsibility of the State and Local Boards of Education. MRSPA's Education Priority is clear: "MRSPA supports legislation designed to enhance public education and promote lifelong learning for all students. Support for public education and lifelong learning is essential to forming an educated and productive citizenry. Curriculum decisions made in support of public education and lifelong learning must be the responsibility of State and Local Boards of Education."

MRSPA is not opposed to the curriculum per se. It is not the role or responsibility of the State Legislature to mandate curriculum. We urge you to allow the State and Local Boards of Education to do their due diligence in regard to curriculum.

Additionally, this bill requires all school districts to hire a mediator for each high school. This added expense, not to mention the difficulty a system would have finding that many mediators, is an unnecessary burden on systems. Most mediators rate of pay is much higher than a typical school system employee salary. Some school districts already have student mediation programs in place that work very well.

On behalf of the over 12,000 members of The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, we urge your opposition to and an unfavorable report on HB 795.

Sincerely,

Carla J. Duls

Virginia G. Crespo

President

Legislative Aide