



Maryland Retired School Personnel Association

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House Bill 1181
In Opposition Of
Education – Curriculum Standards – Antihate and Holocaust Education
(Educate to Stop the Hate Act)
Ways and Means Committee
Hearing: February 28, 2024 – 1:00 a.m.

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

Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) opposes HB 1181 Education – Curriculum Standards – Antihate and Holocaust Education (Educate to Stop the Hate Act)

We oppose this legislation for several reasons, mainly because teacher training is the purview of the State Department of Education (MSDE) and local Boards of Education. The legislature should not be involved in mandating curriculum either for teachers or for students.

Although education against Antisemitism and Islamophobia is a worthy goal, we cannot condone legislators mandating training requirements for teachers. MRSPA is not opposed to education on multicultural diversity and anti-hate rhetoric which is likely already included in the statewide social studies curriculum. We suggest that legislators contact the appropriate staff at MSDE to learn what is already included in curriculum.

Teachers go through numerous training courses each year which the State Department of Education and local school systems have already sanctioned, and we strongly oppose having another item added to the plates of our already overburdened teachers. We especially oppose including online components in the training. The impact of such training will be minimal at best, given the unreasonable number of online training courses each year. This could then just be another box for teachers to check, with little to no impact as intended.

On behalf of the 12,000 members of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, we urge strong opposition to HB 1181.

Sincerely,

Carla J. Duls
President

Virginia G. Crespo
Legislative Aide