

13900 Berryville Road
Germantown, Maryland 20784
January 27, 2025

The Honorable Senator Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Committee,

Support for Senate Bill 293 (County Board Member Antibias Training Act)

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 293, introduced by you. I support this legislation as a spiritual leader of a multi-generational and multi-diverse congregation. It requires each county board of education member to complete anti-bias training at least once during their term. This legislation provides a practical and balanced approach to ensuring equity and accountability in our education system while respecting the diversity of thought among local leaders.

This bill is grounded in the principle of good governance. School board members oversee diverse student populations and make decisions that directly impact education outcomes. Antibias training ensures that they are equipped to navigate these responsibilities with fairness and cultural awareness, enabling them to serve all constituents effectively.

The training is structured to minimize burden, requiring completion only once per term. It focuses on universally shared values such as fairness, mutual respect, and effective leadership. It does not promote specific ideologies or impose rigid frameworks but instead fosters an understanding of how unconscious biases, often unintentionally, can shape policies and practices.

Senate Bill 293 is a thoughtful and balanced measure that promotes fairness, accountability, and respect in education governance. I urge the General Assembly to pass this legislation and affirm Maryland's commitment to equity and excellence in education.

If I can provide additional insights or support regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at kennethnelso@gmail.com or 301-367-0012.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to Maryland's future.

Sincerely,



Rev. Kenneth Nelson