



TESTIMONY FOR SB0293

County Boards of Education - Antibias Training for Members – Requirement (County Board Member Antibias Training Act)

Bill Sponsor: Senator Feldman

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0293 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state with well over 30,000 members.

No one is free from bias. Sometimes, bias is so ingrained that we often don't recognize our own biases. But it does color the interactions that we have every day. Recognizing that no one person is representative of a race, or ethnicity, or a *type*, and seeing past the biases that we have helps us do our jobs better and treat people more fairly.

That's a good goal – to train people in positions of authority, and who are making decisions for the many, in such a way that they can be better at doing their jobs. In that respect, state and county leaders should set an example for everyone to follow.

This bill would require each member of a County Board of Education to take antibias once during their term. Our members would like to see the training take place at the beginning of the term, but see the once-per-term requirement as acceptable and fully support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.