



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman
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The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary, Chairman
and Members of the Ways & Means Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: **HB1385** – Children – Parental Rights – Educational Rights - **FAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Atterbeary and Committee Members,

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women strongly supports HB1385 to ensure that parents are advised about and involved in their children's education. Having parents participate in the development of policies governing the education of their children will promote **better understanding and cooperation among teachers, administrators, and parents**. That cooperation will lead to **better student outcomes**.

HB1385 will aid parents in carrying out their ultimate duty -- the care and direction of their children.

Parents need to be informed when there are concerns about or changes in the behavior of their children. Requiring parental notice when a student is disruptive, has been attacked, requests to use a different gender, name or pronoun, or seeks mental health counseling is essential to the well-being of the child.

Parents are the ones who must deal with the consequences of school policies long after school hours have ended. They need to have information on all extracurricular activities and clubs their child enrolls in and be able to approve or deny the student's participation in that activity. Parental rights must be respected.

HB1385 removes ambiguity about the rights of parents and supports parents' engagement in their child's education.

Please vote a **FAVORABLE** report for **HB1385**.

Sincerely,
Ella Ennis
Legislative Chairman
Maryland Federation of Republican Women