

Bill Number: HB161  
My Position: Favorable  
Ways and Means Committee

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee.

I ask that you SUPPORT HB161.

Covid19 taught me that the health education that we Marylanders received in previous years was insufficient. The mental health crisis amongst our youth points to this as well. We need a more comprehensive curriculum that address mental and emotional health, disease prevention and control, gender identity, sexual orientation and human sexuality etc.

Numerous studies have shown that lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth have a higher rate of suicide attempts than do heterosexual youth. According to a Trevor Project 2023 survey, 18% of LGBT youth have attempted suicide, a rate 2 times higher than teenaged general population.

This comprehensive curriculum will help those youth specifically, along with the rest of their peers.

Please SUPPORT HB161.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rebecca Forte  
Severna Park