

May 26, 2017

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
H-101 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed House Bill 461 – *Education – Accountability Program – Assessments (More Learning, Less Testing Act of 2017)*.

This bill requires the State Board of Education to develop, in collaboration with certain entities and individuals, a middle school social studies assessment, as well as a redesigned high school social studies assessment, that meet specified criteria to be implemented by a certain date. This bill also requires each local board of education to establish a District Committee on Assessments to monitor and evaluate the county's assessment program, and to complete specified tasks. In addition, this bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt regulations that limit the amount of time that may be devoted to federal, State, and locally mandated assessments for each grade, and also requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to conduct a specified survey regarding time spent on assessments.

Senate Bill 452, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 461.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor