



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: HB1242
TITLE: Family Law - Fundamental Parental Rights
DATE: 3/5/2020
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Judiciary
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The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **opposes** HB1242.

House Bill 1242 establishes that a parent has the fundamental right to direct the upbringing, education, care, and welfare of the parent's child and prohibiting the State or a political subdivision from infringing on a parent's fundamental right to direct the upbringing, education, care, and welfare of the parent's child unless the State or political subdivision can demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence certain factors. This could be translated to mean that a parent has the right to determine the curriculum or other provisions, like attendance requirements.

One of the priorities of the Board is to ensure collaboration and involvement of the families and communities in our public education system. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) believes in transparency and strong parent/family engagement. However, enactment of this Bill would impair the district's ability to exercise professional judgement in multiple areas of school system administration. For example, if a parent had the fundamental right to direct the education of their child who attends public school, some may interpret the law as enabling them to set the curriculum, attendance requirements, discipline, grading and reporting requirements, etc. specifically for their child.

For these reasons, the Board **opposes** this legislation and urges an **unfavorable** report.