



February 14, 2020

Chair Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

I am writing on behalf of members of the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP), an organization which represents middle school and high school administrators throughout Maryland. As an organization, MASSP supports HOUSE BILL 0476 -Education – Certification in Secondary Education Content Areas – Expanded Grade Range.

Today in many school districts, the school levels include elementary (grades K-5), middle (grades 6-8), and high (grades 9-12). Prior to this arrangement of levels, schools were divided by elementary (grades K-6), middle or **junior high** (grades 7-8 or 7-9) and high (grades 9-12 or 10-12). With the addition of 6<sup>th</sup> grade at the middle school level, administrators are required to hire teachers with elementary school certification for grade 6 and teachers with secondary school certification for grades 7 and 8.

The present structure for certification results in an inefficient use of teachers; it also poses undue burdens on middle school administrators when hiring and scheduling. More importantly, the additional certification poses and undue burden on teachers who may be asked to obtain a third certification solely for teaching certain grades in middle school.

By passing HB0476, Middle School administrators will have the flexibility to hire teachers with one certification; teachers will be able to teach all 3 grade levels. This is in the best interest of students, teachers, and administrators.

For the reasons stated above, I respectfully ask you to report favorably on House Bill 0476. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Addie Kaufman, Ed.D.  
Executive Director  
Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals

Brandy Brady, Principal, Somerset Intermediate School, Somerset County  
Wendy Garvin, Principal, Winters Mill High School, Carroll County  
Susan Harris, Principal, Dumbarton Middle School, Baltimore County  
Lamark Holley, Assistant Principal, Aberdeen High/Middle School, Harford County  
Joey N. Jones, Principal, Robert Frost Middle School, Montgomery County  
Dave Kehne, Principal, Urbana High School, Frederick County  
Lois McCoy, Principal, Metapeake Middle School, Queen Anne's County  
Robert Motely, Principal, Atholton High School, Howard County (NASSP President-Elect)  
Debbie O'Byrne, Assistant Principal, Dunloggin Middle School, Howard County  
Melissa Shindel, Principal, Lake Elkhorn Middle School, Howard County  
Regena Williams, Assistant Principal, International High School, Prince George's County  
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