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Written Testimony
HB 347 - Education - Community and Local Accountability for Struggling Schools
(CLASS) Act of 2020 - Innovation Schools
House Ways and Means Committee
February 19, 2020

OPPOSE

Good afternoon Chair Kaiser and members of the Committee. On behalf of our 20,000 members in state, municipal, and public education residing in Maryland, AFT-Maryland strongly opposes HB 347.

Representatives from the AFT-Maryland, along with dozens of other stakeholders have worked for nearly four years on the question of what improvements are needed in order to make our state a world-class education system for our students and our economic future.

After much hard work and deliberation, we have come to a consensus with those stakeholders and education policy experts on a set of policy recommendations known as the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. We believe this plan will be effective in bringing about the required changes and improvements.

Nowhere in our recommendations, did it list the changes sought after in this bill. Indeed, the Governor's own appointees to the State Board of Education hold doubts as to whether the drastic changes called for in this bill would do anything to improve the educational outcomes of any of Maryland's students.

For these reasons we ask that this committee give an unfavorable report to HB 347. Thank you.

Marietta English
President