



Maryland Education Coalition



INSPIRES ACTION & POSITIVE CHANGE SO MARYLAND'S STUDENTS SUCCEED

Rick Tyler, Jr., Chair

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Date: March 3, 2021

BILL: HB 1056 -Nonpublic Schools –
Adequate Health Services -
Eligibility for Reimbursement

POSITION: Strongly Oppose
COMMITTEE: Appropriations

We advocate for adequate, equitable funding and systematic accountability for the estimated 900,000 public school students in Maryland’s public schools regardless of their academic, cultural, economic, geographic, racial, or other demographic status.

We believe a public education allows all students access to a quality education so each may graduate college or career-ready is a constitutional right based on [Article VIII of the Maryland Constitution](#). We also believe it is a civil right* based on several federal and state laws or regulations.

MEC strongly opposes HB 1056-Nonpublic Schools - Adequate Health Services - Eligibility for Reimbursement. This bill if approved would create an unfunded mandate to local governments with limited resources to provide adequate, equitable public health care to public school students and staff during a pandemic by requiring them to provide additional funding to less regulated, nonpublic schools that do not serve approve public school students with disabilities. It would also set a bad precedent.

MEC supports adequate, equitable investment of public money for public and approved private special needs schools only - essential for teaching the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for our children to be contributing members in our communities, without discrimination. MEC opposes the use of any public operating or capital funds for vouchers, tax credits, or tax subsidies for all other non-public, private, parochial, or home schools.

Therefore, we urge the committee to oppose HB 1056.

Respectfully yours,
Rick Tyler, Jr, MEC Chair