

## Testimony in Opposition of Senate Bill 668

### Good Job Opportunities for High School Graduates Act 2021

#### Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

March 9, 2021

1:00 pm

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**Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association opposes Senate Bill 668, legislation which, in part, allows funding from the Career and Technology Education (CTE) Innovation Grant program to be used in support of efforts and services related to programs and entities associated with the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) assessment program for high school student. It further creates a system that would facilitate the release of a student's ASVAB scores to outside entities.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our 896,837 students for careers and jobs of the future. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

The NEA Legislative Program for the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress of the United States expressly states, "NEA opposes...mandatory and/or coerced participation of students in the administration of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) exam."<sup>1</sup> Both NEA and MSEA proudly support the members and families of our nation's armed services. We are grateful for their sacrifices on our collective behalf. However, we do not believe it appropriate to conflate this voluntary act of service with the provision or administration of CTE-related programs and services to our high school

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<sup>1</sup> Available online at <https://www.nea.org/sites/default/files/2020-09/NEA%20Federal%20Legislative%20Program%2C%202020.pdf> (Accessed on March 5, 2021)



students. If students wish to participate in the ASVAB assessment and program offerings, we see no reason to prevent them from doing so. However, we do not believe that funds specifically meant to develop and support CTE programs in our public schools should be diverted to such a program.

MSEA members have been vocal supporters of CTE expansion opportunities, particularly those enacted through the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. We look forward to supporting the implementation of the Blueprint as it expands both opportunities for and access to CTE learning opportunities for all of our students. We simply do not believe that the efforts articulated in this legislation should be incorporated into those efforts.

**We urge an unfavorable report on SB 668.**