



## **SB654 EDUCATION – COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM – INSTRUCTION ON SKIN CANCER**

February 25, 2021

EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

### **OPPOSE**

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **SB654 Education – Comprehensive Health Education Program – Instruction on Skin Cancer**. This bill requires, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, each local board of education provide age-appropriate instruction on skin cancer as part of the comprehensive health education program.

AACPS opposes efforts by the General Assembly to legislate local public school curriculum or assessments. The authority to establish curriculum and assessments is the domain of the State Board of Education and the local boards of education, the same entities charged with the responsibility to research, investigate, and evaluate both curriculum and assessments. Maintaining this authority with the State Board and local boards allows local boards of education to collaborate with the State and stakeholders to ensure that all students, schools, and school systems are held accountable.

AACPS already offers comprehensive health education in accordance with Maryland State law and regulations. Each local school system must 1) provide a comprehensive health education program with sufficient frequency and duration to meet the requirements of the State curriculum for all students in prekindergarten through grade 8 and 2) offer a comprehensive health education program in grades 9 through 12 that enables students to meet graduation requirements and to select health education electives. State law requires local school systems to teach a number of specified health topics, including drug addiction and prevention education; awareness and prevention of sexual abuse and assault; and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) that includes hands-only CPR and the use of an automated external defibrillator. In addition, State regulations require health instruction in the following topics: mental and emotional health; alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; personal and consumer health; family life and human sexuality; safety and injury prevention; nutrition and fitness; and disease prevention and control.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB654.