

# **Skin Cancer education bill.pdf**

Uploaded by: Flowers, Victoria

Position: FAV

## SB654 Sunscreen education

Good afternoon, Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

My name is Victoria Flowers and I am a Baltimore County resident. I come before you today to ask you to give Senate Bill 654 consideration. A very personal tragedy is what led me to appear before you today, the passing of my oldest child at the age of 24 from melanoma. Cancer as most know is horrific. Skin cancer is by far the least spoken about disease. Which is insane because your skin is the largest organ of the human body. Most do not know that this cancer comes in various forms, squamous cell, basal cell and the two deadliest, melanoma and Merkle cell.

It is impossible for me to go into such detail about the medical literature in great detail in my allotted time with you today. Educating our children about protecting their skin while in school is imperative. This could be done at age-appropriate levels. From simply teaching them about sunscreen and re-application while outdoors, to UV protective clothing, to telling their parents or guardians and doctors if they notice a mole changing in shape size or color. I do understand why this or any legislative body might be reluctant to prescribe what is taught in our schools, and that is why this bill is flexible in terms of the method of education. Whether it's a lesson in a health class, a speaker at a school assembly, or even an educational pamphlet that goes home to parents, the important thing is communicating the risks involved. This is no different than other such health and wellness messages shared with students in a school setting.

Had all of this been in place years ago, perhaps things would be different for my family. This, I will never know for sure, because we cannot go back and change the past, only do better job for future generations.

In closing, I alone could not save my son. His doctors tried to help with various surgeries, and chemo to try to stomp out the beast he had fought. As a parent, I could only be there and watch as he endured horrific suffering from melanoma. While as stated earlier, I cannot go back in time and change the past, I also know that I cannot stand idly by and not take action to try to prevent this from happening to any other family. The only way I know how to do this is through education and that starts with the help from our Senators and Delegates and Governor in Annapolis. Please help me save lives.

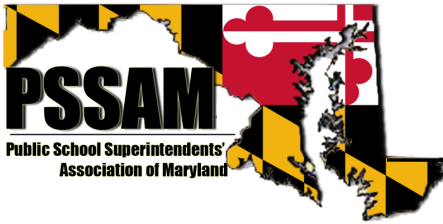
Thank you

Victoria Flowers

# **sb 654 skin cancer curriculum OPPOSE PSSAM.pdf**

Uploaded by: McHale, Erin

Position: UNF



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**Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director**

BILL: Senate Bill 654 – Comprehensive Health Education on Skin Cancer  
DATE: January 25, 2021  
POSITION: **Oppose**  
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
CONTACT: Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director

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This legislation requires each county board of education to provide age-appropriate instruction on skin cancer as part of the comprehensive health education program.

The Public Schools Superintendents' Association of Maryland (PSSAM), representing all twenty-four local school superintendents, opposes SB 654.

PSSAM appreciates the sponsor's efforts to more fully educate children on skin cancer and prevention. We too believe this is important information for students to learn. In fact, many systems include information about skin cancer prevention in their current health curriculum, but also in their required policies regarding the possession and use of sunscreen. House Bill 427 of 2017 required these written policies to authorize a student to possess and use sunscreen in school without written permission from a health care provider. In addition, each local board of education must include information encouraging schools to educate students about sunscreen, sun safety, and the on the use of sunscreen in school.

Superintendents continue to advocate for local governance on all curriculum, even on such well-meaning legislation such as this. As a policy, PSSAM continues to oppose any legislation that impinges on the local authority for school boards and superintendents to develop curriculum that reflect the specific and diverse needs of their system. We firmly believe that these responsibilities belong to local boards of education working together with the State Board of Education.

For the reasons noted above, PSSAM opposes Senate Bill 654 and requests an unfavorable committee report.

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*One Voice, One Vision for Maryland's Students*

# **AACPS SB654 Skin Cancer OPP 2.25.21.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ortiz, Jeanette

Position: UNF



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

February 25, 2021

EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

### **OPPOSE**

Jeanette Ortiz, Esq., Legislative & Policy Counsel (410.703.5352)

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.

# **SB 654.Skin Cancer Health Curriculum.pdf**

Uploaded by: Woolums, John

Position: UNF

**BILL:** Senate Bill 654  
**TITLE:** Education - Comprehensive Health Education Program - Skin Cancer  
**DATE:** February 25, 2021  
**POSITION:** OPPOSE  
**COMMITTEE:** Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
**CONTACT:** John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the state's local boards of education, opposes Senate Bill 654, which would require, beginning immediately in the 2021-2022 school year, that each local board of education provide age-appropriate instruction on skin cancer as part of the comprehensive health education program.

Local boards of education are committed to providing school facilities, school meals, and programs of instruction designed to promote the physical and mental health and fitness of students and to prepare them to maintain a healthy lifestyle as adults. In this light, MABE appreciates the intent of this bill, but opposes adopting a student health instruction standard in this manner.

As this committee knows, MABE opposes efforts by the General Assembly to legislate curriculum, firmly believing that this role belongs to local boards of education in conjunction with the State Board. Although MABE agrees that skin cancer prevention education is a valuable component to comprehensive school health education programs, MABE maintains a strong preference for the adoption of State standards and the local discretion to achieve those standards through locally adopted curriculum and instructional tools and practices.

In creating the State Board and local boards of education, the General Assembly has delegated to them the responsibility for developing curriculum and administering assessments. The State Board establishes State standards and statewide graduation requirements; the local boards implement locally-developed curriculum to ensure that standards are met and students are prepared to meet graduation requirements. State and local assessment programs ensure that all students, schools, and school systems are held accountable for their work.

Again, MABE's opposition to this bill does not rest on an evaluation of the merits of teaching any specified subject matter, certainly not education about skin cancer, rather the opposition to statutorily mandating the teaching of any one concept or content item.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 654.



# **SB 654 - Education - Comprehensive Health Educatio**

Uploaded by: Dove, Tina

Position: INFO

Informational Testimony regarding Senate Bill 654

Education—Comprehensive Health Education Program—  
Instruction on Skin Cancer

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 25, 2021

11:00 am

Tina N. Dove, M.Ed.  
Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association offers this informational testimony on Senate Bill 654, legislation that would require county boards of education to provide age-appropriate instruction on skin cancer as part of their comprehensive health education program.

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).

MSEA tenaciously advocates for the policies and programs that will give our students access to the resources they need in order to achieve their full potential. We understand clearly that the health and wellness of our students—both physical and behavioral—has a direct impact on their academic and nonacademic outcomes.

However, MSEA has a longstanding position in opposition to legislatively mandating curriculum and instruction. We believe that it is the purview of the MSDE and the State Board of Education to develop and implement curriculum standards in order to meet the academic needs of the students served in Maryland's public schools. It is then the responsibility of local districts to determine how best to implement a program of study that best serves the needs of their students. We strongly believe that mandating state-wide curriculum or instructional requirements—outside of very extreme circumstances—is bad public policy. We trust that our health educators, guided by both state- and

county-level mandated curriculum and the educational needs of the students in their schools and districts, are more than capable of adding instructional topic matters into their plans without a legislative mandate.

# **SB 654 - LOI - Education - Comprehensive Health Ed**

Uploaded by: Hands, Zachary

Position: INFO



**Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.**  
State Superintendent of Schools

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<b>BILL:</b>	Senate Bill 654	<b>DATE:</b>	February 25, 2021
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Education - Comprehensive Health Education Program - Instruction on Skin Cancer	<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
<b>POSITION:</b>	Information Only		
<b>CONTACT:</b>	Zachary Hands 410-767-0504 (Annapolis) <a href="mailto:Zachary.hands1@maryland.gov">Zachary.hands1@maryland.gov</a>		

#### **EXPLANATION:**

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is providing information for consideration regarding **Senate Bill (SB) 654 – Education – Comprehensive Health Education Program - Instruction on Skin Cancer**, which requires each county board to provide age-appropriate instruction on skin cancer as part of the Comprehensive Health Education program.

MSDE, in collaboration with local school system leaders and experts in the field of Health Education, revised and published an updated [Maryland Framework for Comprehensive Health Education](#) in July 2020. In response to the introduction of [Senate Bill 695 during the 2020 legislative session](#) we were intentional in strengthening instruction on skin cancer throughout the elementary and secondary Health Education Framework revisions. This Framework specifies what every child should know and be able to do at each grade level. Local school systems develop curricula that align to the State Framework.

Instruction related to skin cancer is mandated for all Maryland students at a variety of grade-levels as part of the Comprehensive Health Education program. Disease Prevention is one of six core concepts that is part of the Comprehensive Health Education program. The Health Education Framework includes the indicators below related to skin cancer:

##### Grade 1

List ways to prevent harmful effects of the sun. 1f.1.5

##### Grade 2

Explain how to protect one's skin and other parts of the body from the sun. 1f.2.5

##### Grade 3

Describe ways to prevent harmful effects of the sun. 1f.3.3

Grade 6

Summarize actions to take to protect one's skin against potential damage from exposure to the sun. 1f.6.6

Grade 7

Explain why it is important to protect oneself against potential skin damage from exposure to the sun. 1f.7.7

Explain the behavioral and environmental factors that contribute to chronic diseases including cancer, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes. 1f.7.1

High School I

Summarize the symptoms and prevention of skin cancer. 1f.HS1.7

Analyze the factors that contribute to the major chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, hypertension, osteoporosis, and skin cancer. 1f.HS1.1

High School II

Summarize the potential health and social consequences of popular fads or trends such as tanning beds, body piercing, and tattooing. 1f.HS2.4

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **SB 654**. For further information, please contact Zachary Hands, at 410-767-0504, or [Zachary.hands1@maryland.gov](mailto:Zachary.hands1@maryland.gov).