

Testimony OPPOSING SB786 Curriculum Transparency & Publication Act

Dear Chair Pinsky and the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee,

I strongly OPPOSE SB786, the Curriculum Transparency & Publication Act. Here are just a few of my reasons:

1. Curriculums are already available on County websites and detailed lesson plans are always available to parents if they request them directly from their children's schools and teachers.
2. Our schools have always been very transparent about Maryland State Standards, the Common Core Standards and they are easy for anyone to find. Both of my children attended Maryland Public Schools.
3. Since we know that there is no need to legislate such "curriculum transparency," I'd like to focus on the fact that this bill would require MORE non-instructional work by our already over worked teachers. In the last 2 years we have asked more of them than ever before, and they have risen to the occasion. We know our teachers already spend hours after school and at home, in addition to the hours in the classroom, getting ready to teach our students. We should not now begin asking each teacher to input and post a lesson plan for every subject they teach for every day, five days a week.
4. This bill would tie the hands of our excellent, highly-educated and skilled teachers by preventing them from making any diversion from their posted lesson plans. We need our teachers to be able to be flexible, adaptive and imaginative depending on what our students need each day to be successful.
5. Parents of students who are enrolled in our public schools do not need this legislation. Lou Taylor, Superintendent of Worcester Public Schools was quoted in the OC Today, March 4 edition, saying "he is confident that parents who are involved in their child's education know what is being taught and communicate regularly with the teachers."

Respectfully,

Gail Jankowski

District 38

Worcester County

Proud Grandparent of 3 current (and 2 future) students of Maryland Public Schools