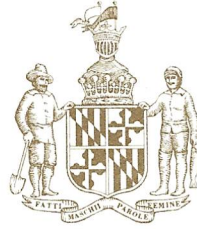


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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 8, 2022

The Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
SB 786 Curriculum Transparency and Publication Act  
Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza

I appreciate this opportunity to present Senate Bill 786, The Curriculum Transparency and Publication Act, with the intention of the bill to increase curriculum transparency for parents, taxpayers, and the general public.

We as a society continue to recover from the pandemic on all fronts – health, economic, and social with both short-term and long-term implications.

One positive development from the pandemic has been the number of parents who have become actively engaged in their children's education as virtual learning became the norm.

As parents become more involved in assisting their children with virtual learning, it is natural that parents would want more information about their children's school work, including their interest in their children's curriculum.

Senate Bill 786 is an effort to take the next step to increase curriculum transparency by requiring each public school to post the curriculum on the school's publicly-accessible website.

I want to recognize the leadership and commitment of all school personnel in making the extra effort to provide a quality education for all students and in being responsive to parents and others when questions are asked about curriculum and other education-related issues.

We on this Committee are aware that some Maryland school systems are posting general coursework information on their system's website like my own home county of Worcester. My bill has been introduced to increase curriculum transparency by requiring the curriculum for each school to be posted on publicly-accessible to include instructional materials (not individual lesson plans), assessment techniques, internet links for, or the name of a textbook, and course syllabi without it being an undue hardship on school personnel. I believe the technology is available to allow this information to be posted publicly without being overly burdensome.

Representatives from various parent coalition groups from across the state support SB 786 and wanted to testify in person. Out of respect for the Committee's time, they have submitted written testimony instead, and I have one witness on my panel, Amy Adams, who is a mother of three and a leader of a grassroots advocacy group for parents from Baltimore County.

I believe we who serve on this Committee and as members of the Senate have a shared goal in increasing curriculum transparency and I present SB 786 as a means to work with you to strengthen curriculum transparency in Maryland and request a favorable report.