

03/08/22

Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

Maryland General Assembly

Legislative Services Building

90 State Circle

Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony on Senate Bill 786

Dear Legislators,

As a parent of two children that graduated from Worcester County Schools, the last child graduating in 2020, and as a taxpayer in this county, I have watched the steady decline of any transparency in our schools and BOE.

I've attended multiple school board meetings asking for transparency of the curriculum on the website to no avail. As a taxpayer who helps fund the schools, I am entitled to know what my money is used for as much as a current parent. We have been forced to send FOIA requests for any information we want from the board of education, why?

The curriculum and any books used should be on the website for all to see. We've been told one thing by administration, only to find out that the information was hardly correct.

SB786 is important to all residents of each county. I can't understand why our own Superintendent is opposed to this as it would bring what so many have sought for so long, transparency. As far as needing extra staff to accomplish this, how could this be when every school system employs a Director of Curriculum and has assistants, so why can they simply not print each grade-specific curriculum to PDF and post to the school systems website?

When the Director of Curriculum is getting a six figure salary, I think we need to question what they are actually doing to justify this.

I fully support SB786 in its entirety and I am respectfully requesting that our legislators support and pass this bipartisan bill in its current form as it is in the best interest of our citizens in every county.

Thank you for your consideration and passing this bill.

Sincerely,

Caryn Abbott

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