



Secular Maryland

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HB 1256 - SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

Education - Discriminatory Concepts in Instruction - Prohibition (Ending Discrimination in Public Education Act of 2022),

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Washington, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Secular Maryland opposes the promotion of dubious ideological perspectives, masquerading as education, in our public schools. We acknowledge the good intentions of those who want to use public schools to counter various ills of our country. The best intentioned activism can exhibit negative tendencies towards exaggeration, over-generalization, over-simplification, bias, self-righteousness, and intolerance. There is no evidence that teaching racial essentialism has any long lasting positive impact in countering racism in society, there is some evidence that it can actually be counterproductive. It is a mistake to racialize, genderize, or ethnicize society.

Despite the bill's title, the problem being targeted here is ideological political indoctrination, not discrimination. This bill applies itself to nonpublic schools receiving government money. Doing that in this context arguably introduces a double standard because nonpublic schools receiving government money are not otherwise being so tightly restricted regarding what they can teach. Therefore we think that particular provision should be removed from this bill.

Respectfully,
Mathew Goldstein
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Bowie, MD