



THE EVERETT J. WARING / JUANITA JACKSON MITCHELL
LAW SOCIETY OF HOWARD COUNTY

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Waringmitchell.org

Chartered 1985

2021-2022 Officers March 8, 2022

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Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Taylor House Office Building, Room 131
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 1256 - Education - Discriminatory Concepts in Instruction - Prohibition (Ending Discrimination in Public Education Act of 2022)

Members At Large
Charles Fuller, Esq.
Erica LeMon, Esq.

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

On behalf of the Everett J. Waring/Juanita Jackson Mitchell Law Society of Howard County, Inc., we stand in strong opposition to HB 1256 Education – Discriminatory Concepts in Instruction – Prohibition (Ending Discrimination in Public Education Act of 2022) sponsored by Honorable Delegates Chisholm, Arentz, Arikan, Beitzel, Boteler, Buckel, Ghrist, Griffith, Hornberger, Krebs, Mangione, Mautz, McComas, McKay, Morgan, Reilly, Rose, Shoemaker, and Thiam

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HB 1256 is an overt attempt to erase Black history and to quell any classroom discussions based on anti-racism. The State of Maryland has a rich Black history. This history includes three prominent national heroes: Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, and Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. If this bill were to pass, teachers would not be able to teach about the adversity that these well-known icons endured in their fight for actual freedom, political equality, and economic equity. Our school-aged children may not be able to visit one of Maryland's National Parks, including the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park

Public schools are supposed to prepare our children for the future, which must include lessons on racial equality and equity. Our children need a well-rounded education that must include an accurate history of our country, as well as lessons in civility and how to be better human beings. Additionally, HB 1256 would further stifle teachers' flexibility to teach for fear of punishment as has happened in other states who have passed similarly misguided legislation.

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HB 1256 is unconstitutional as vague and is not in the best interest of our children, our teachers, and our State. We stand in strong opposition to this proposed bill and urge an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

Adia Moore

Adia Moore, Esq.

President

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