

**Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 758
Education – Public Schools – Lesson Plans and Instructional Material**

**Ways and Means
Thursday, February 24th, 2022
1:00 p.m.**

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The Maryland State Education Association strongly opposes House Bill 758, which would require that all lesson plans and instructional materials used at public schools be posted on the public school's website, and would establish certain requirements for the development, production, and inspection of instructional materials referenced in lesson plans.

MSEA represents 76,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students for the careers and jobs of the future. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

The mandates in this bill would add a tremendous bureaucratic burden to already-understaffed schools. A recent MSEA survey of Maryland public school employees showed that 92% of educators say workload is a serious or very serious concern, and 91% say that burn out is a serious or very serious concern.¹ As staffing shortages grow and 60% of educators say that they are considering leaving the profession or retiring early due to the pandemic, this legislation is uniquely ill-suited to meet the needs of the moment.²

¹Maryland State Education Association (2022). *Poll: Crushing Workloads Burning Out Educators; Right To Bargain For Smaller Classes Would Improve Retention*. Retrieved February 22, 2022, from <https://marylandeducators.org/poll-crushing-workloads-burning-out-educators-right-to-bargain-for-smaller-classes-would-improve-retention/>

²Ibid.



Educators are highly trained, dedicated professionals who have the expertise to source, develop, and adapt quality educational materials that meet the unique needs of their students. Though this bill purports to offer transparency, its methods are excessive, unwarranted, and redundant: content standards and model frameworks are already widely available online for public reference.³ Adding yet another administrative burden to educators' workloads would further strain school resources and provide no benefit to students.

We urge the committee to issue an unfavorable report on House Bill 758.

³Maryland State Department of Education (September 2020). *High School United States History Framework*. Retrieved February 22, 2022, from <https://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Documents/DCAA/SocialStudies/HSUS.pdf>