



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman
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Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary, Chairman
And Members of the Ways & Means Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: **HB 633** – Education – Accountability & Implementation Board – Membership -- **SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Atterbeary and Committee Members,

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women strongly supports HB 633 to add regional representation to the Education Accountability and Implementation Board. As currently constituted, the membership of the Board is dominated by individuals from just 4 of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions.

The decisions of the Accountability and Implementation Board will affect the education of children in all jurisdictions in Maryland for the next ten to twenty years. The needs and concerns in smaller counties can be quite different from those in large metropolitan counties. Resources readily available in urban areas may be less available and/or more costly in rural areas. Jurisdictions with substantial ESL populations have far higher costs related to the unique educational needs of those communities than an area with few ESL students. The availability of services and the cost of those services for special needs students (with physical handicaps or mental health needs) can differ dramatically from one jurisdiction to another.

The Board's membership must reflect the diversity of needs throughout Maryland. No single jurisdiction should be represented more than once. Balanced representation that covers all regions of the State will greatly improve acceptance of the work of the Education Accountability and Implementation Board.

We urge you to vote a **FAVORABLE** report for HB 633.

Sincerely,

Ella Ennis
Legislative Chairman