



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman  
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The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary, Chairman  
and Members of the Ways and Means Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: **HB 0196** – Publication of School Library Catalogs – **FAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Atterbeary and Committee Members,

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women strongly supports HB 0196, which would require every public school to annually provide a copy of the school's library catalog to the county board of education for posting on the county board's website and would require each public school to annually send parents or guardians of students who attend that school a link to the school's library catalog.

Children learn best when parents are involved in their education. The educational materials and curriculums used by teachers in the public schools should be available for review by parents. HB 0196 will allow parents to review the books and other library materials that are available to their children at the elementary, middle and high school levels. The ability to review those materials will aid parents in helping their children choose appropriate books, videos and other materials.

Many parents are deeply concerned about the content, focus and guidance contained in educational materials. Posting the school's library catalog online, updated annually, will allow parents to be better informed and feel more confident about the educational materials their children will encounter.

Public schools are just that, public. Public schools, their staff, and the materials they use in teaching students are paid for by the taxpayers of our State. The citizens who pay those taxes have a right to know what materials are being used in the instruction of the children of the state.

Posting each school's catalog of library materials online is a non-intrusive and low-cost way to increase transparency in education.

Please give a **FAVORABLE** report to HB 0196.

Sincerely,  
Ella Ennis  
Legislative Chairman  
Maryland Federation of Republican Women