

**Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 1256
Education - Discriminatory Concepts in Instruction - Prohibition (Ending
Discrimination in Public Education Act of 2022)**

**Ways and Means
Thursday, March 10th, 2022
1:00 p.m.**

**Lauren Lamb
Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association strongly opposes House Bill 1256, which according to the sponsors, would prohibit a teacher, an administrator, or any other employee of a public primary or secondary school and certain nonpublic schools from including certain discriminatory concepts in a unit of instruction. The premise of this bill is inaccurate, offensive, and harmful to students.

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).

Students deserve the right to an honest, accurate education that enables them to pursue their dreams. Public schools strive to bring together students of all races, classes, identities, and experiences to grow their skills and their understanding of the world. However, some politicians want to advance a narrative against public schools that would censor certain subjects, lessons, and instructional materials, deny resources to certain children, and erase people who look like them from history books. This legislation is an example of such a narrative: it is premised on a bad faith, strawman argument that wrongly frames educators as uncaring and honest education as divisive.



Children deserve the opportunity to reckon with and learn from the mistakes of the past, understand the present, and work toward a better future. When educators, families, and community members work together to resist certain politicians using children’s learning as a political tool, we can equip our schools with the resources to deliver quality, truthful education that prepares every child for the future.

We strongly urge the committee to issue an Unfavorable Report on House Bill 1256.