

Honorable Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Washington, and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

I hold a teacher certification in the state of Maryland, have worked in both public and private education in this state, and am currently homeschooling my children. My experience in all of these forms of education inform my request that you oppose HB 737.

State funds should never be used to support the propagation of a religion. As HB 737 states that it would not require any institution to adopt a policy that conflicts with its religious or moral teachings, the funding provided by the bill could bolster enrollment at institutions that promote a particular faith. The same issue arises with the funding being allowed to be used to purchase homeschool curriculum without limitations. The bill would then be supporting the teaching, not only, of specific religious doctrine, but also of content detrimental to the wellbeing of citizens of this state, such as science denial and anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric.

Since public schools have to teach all students regardless of their religion, gender, or ability, their funding should not be drained away toward schools that can discriminate based on those factors. As a secular humanist interested in the wellbeing of all people and our planet, I urge you to oppose HB 737. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Miriam Snare  
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