



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman
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The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chairman
And Members of the Committee on
Education, Energy and Environment
Senate of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: **SB0522** – Education – Accountability & Implementation Board – Membership -- **SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Feldman and Committee Members,

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women strongly supports SB 522 to add regional representation to the Education Accountability and Implementation Board. As currently constituted, the Accountability and Implementation Board is dominated by individuals from 4 jurisdictions but their decisions will impact the education of children in all of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions for the next ten to twenty years.

The needs and concerns in smaller counties often differ from those in large metropolitan jurisdictions. Resources available in rural areas can be very different from those in urban areas. Providing services to children with language barriers, physical limitations, and other special needs can be more complicated and more costly in rural areas.

The Board's membership needs balance and representation from all regions of the State. Adding a representative from Western Maryland, Southern Maryland, and the Eastern Shore and one from each of the 5 largest counties will broaden the perspectives of the AIB. It will be greatly improved with the mix of population size and regional representation provided for in SB 522.

We urge you to vote a **FAVORABLE** report for **SB 522**.

Sincerely,

Ella Ennis
Legislative Chairman