



Maryland Education Coalition



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Date: March 1, 2023

BILL: HB 890- Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education

COMMITTEE: House Ways and Means

POSITION: Favorable W/amendment

The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) was originally founded over 40 years ago and is made up of over twenty statewide organizations and individual advocates with extensive experiences. (**see below**). We advocate for adequate funding, equitable policies, and transparent accountability for the estimated 900,000 students in Maryland’s public schools, regardless of their academic, cultural, economic, geographic, racial, or other demographic status. (More [HERE](#))

MEC believe that all education funding and public policy decisions must apply universally accepted equity principles of fairness that are culturally unbiased, using equality principles that reduce achievement, learning and opportunity gaps among all student groups regardless of their demographic, financial or geographic status. Also, our member, Free State PTA also represents all students and has similar positions.

MEC opposes discrimination against staff, students, parents/guardians or visitors by age, culture, economic status, educational background, ethnicity, gender, geographic location, language, marital status, mental ability, national origin, parental status, physical ability, political philosophy, race, religion, sexual orientation, or work experience.

Therefore, **we are supportive of House Bill 890 with an amendment that will ensure meaningful stakeholder participation in the decision-making process on issues pertaining to student groups who are historically marginalized or discriminated against and who often are misunderstood or denied high quality, equitable access to education and student services.**

We offer the following amendment to add the following MEC organizations that have extensive experiences, and expertise representing some of the student groups listed in this bill.

- NAACP, representing African Americans and other minorities.
- CASA, representing Hispanics and other immigrant groups.
- The Education Advocacy Consortium or Disability Rights Maryland, representing all Special Needs students,
- ACLU representing the Civil Rights of all of the groups listed in the bill.

We do not object to the inclusion of the other groups mentioned or those designated to make appointments but believe if the General Assembly wants the best opportunity to produce a high quality product, these organizations should be given an opportunity to participate and contribute to the process and outcomes.

Therefore, we support HB 890, but urge the sponsor, committee, and general assembly to vote favorable with the amendment

ACLU of MD, Arts Education in Maryland Schools, Arts Every Day, Attendance Works, CASA, Children’s Behavioral Health Coalition, Decoding Dyslexia of MD, Disability Rights Maryland, League of Women Voters of MD, Let Them See Clearly, Right to Read Maryland, Maryland Coalition for Community Schools, Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education, Maryland Coalition for Gifted & Talented Ed, Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition, Maryland Out of School Time Network, MSC-NAACP, Maryland School Psychologists’ Association, Parent Advocacy Consortium, Public Justice Center, School Social Workers of MD, Strong Schools Maryland, Kalam Hettleman, David Hombeck, Rick Tyler, Jr., Shanetta Martin, Sharon Rubinstein