

Written Testimony of Thomas P. and Tina M. Wilson

RE: In Support of House Bill HB1203 - County Boards of Education and Public Schools - Committees and Task Forces - Open Meetings Act

March 6, 2023

As citizens of the state of Maryland, we enthusiastically support Maryland **House Bill HB1203**. This testimony seeks to express our rationale for support of **HB1203**.

The fundamental rights of parents to determine what is best for their children and families have been usurped by the Maryland Department of Education and local school boards to name the major culprits. Parents have been vilified and subjected to intolerance by local School Boards for trying to protect their children from social and sexual indoctrination.

House Bill HB1203 seeks to provide greater transparency and openness into the workings of the local school boards and public schools. The intent of HB1203 is to subject a committee or task force convened by a county board of education or a public school to the Open Meetings Act if the committee or task force will review or discuss curriculum content, textbooks or other course materials, library books, or supplemental materials. This bill would give parents the ability to understand the potential impact from issues being discussed in these forums. This bill serves to provide increased transparency to the public on activities being reviewed by the school boards and public schools.

It is no surprise that States across the country are moving to enact laws that protect fundamental parental rights. It wasn't long ago that parents trusted their elected officials and school boards to assure that their children were being educated in a way that prepared them for success, but those days are now gone. Parents have awoken to the reality that they can no longer trust that their interests are being respected and protected.

We strongly support HB1203 and believe it absolutely necessary to keep parents informed and protect our children from inappropriate material.

Respectfully,

Thomas P. and Tina M. Wilson
Long-time residents of MD District 17