



Secular Maryland

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**HB 1202 - SUPPORT**

Public Schools - Curriculum and Instructional Materials

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Wilkins, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Secular Maryland supports this bill in particular, and government transparency and citizen's right to know more generally. Ideally, the school curriculum would be set by subject matter experts and public schools would neither omit nor add anything beyond that curriculum. Yet even when schools do this properly parents with ideological commitments will object to some of what their children are taught. Furthermore, the public school curriculum is a tempting target for activists who want to leverage access to children for political goals, and complaints that this happens in practice unfortunately are sometimes well justified. The result can be a tangled mess of misdirected parent complaints against some elements of a complete modern education together with misdirected politicization of some elements of public education. Giving parents and the general public as much access as is feasible to the educational materials utilized in their schools is one of the best ways to manage the resulting controversies over what is being taught.

Respectfully,  
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