



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman
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The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary
And Members of the Ways and Means Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: **HB0737** – Failing Schools Options – **FAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Atterbeary and Committee Members,

The 1426 members of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women strongly support HB0737 to require public schools to annually report to parents when the school their child attends has failed for two consecutive years to achieve acceptable student performance standards. HB0737 provides options for parents and students including transferring to a well-performing public school or receiving a scholarship to a non-public school or home-schooling.

It is well-known that competition leads to excellence. Public schools have a virtual monopoly on the education of our children. It is grossly unfair to force a moderate or low-income family to send their children to a failing school. Every child has a right to a high-quality education. It should not matter what their family circumstances are, or where they live. HB0737 will encourage innovation at failing public schools to enable them to retain their students.

Each person is a child only once. They deserve to attend a school that will teach them to read, write and perform mathematics on grade level. Recent national and state reports indicate that only about 40% of Maryland students are achieving at grade-level in reading and mathematics. This is totally unacceptable. Today's children cannot wait 10 years for the Blueprint for the Future. Of all the legislation before the General Assembly today not one bill addresses the real emergency that our public schools are not adequately teaching the basics – reading, writing and mathematics. HB0737 offers parents the possibility of saving their child's education. Please give HB0737 a FAVORABLE Report.

Sincerely,
Ella Ennis
Legislative Chairman
Maryland Federation of Republican Women