

Dear Members of the General Assembly,

Along with MABE, MSDE and many local BOE's, I am writing in strong opposition to HB558. This bill would in essence dismantle all local control over the curriculum and instruction and the amendments as written would result in a total state takeover of local control over curriculum frameworks, standards and instructional materials.

Currently, the authority to establish curriculum based on research, investigation and evaluation of curriculum and assessments resides with the local BOE's based on the best interest of their jurisdiction. The constituents of the local BOE members support this local decision-making authority in collaboration with the State Board of Education.

HB558 is a radical and dangerous change to the MD education policy which has always been balanced between state and local control regarding state standards and local curriculum. This bill would mandate that all local school systems follow every element of the policy and guidelines for the program of instruction established by the State BOE or suffer the consequences of reduced funding which could ultimately bankrupt individual school systems by withholding millions of dollars in state funding.

Accordingly, I urge you to act in opposition to HB558.

Respectfully,

Kim Pratta