



**Testimony in OPPOSITION of  
House Bill 25: Sexually Explicit Materials – Prohibited in Libraries and Media Centers**

**Ways and Means Committee**

**Position: Oppose**

January 31, 2024

Strong Schools Maryland envisions a future in which Maryland leads the nation in high-quality, equitable education practices and policies. **House Bill 25** validates nationwide political efforts aiming to delegitimize public schools by prohibiting “sexually explicit” materials in public school libraries and media centers.

The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future simply does not envision a system where public school administrators’ and teachers’ intents and informed decisions are questioned and attacked. In fact, the passage of this bill would indicate to the public that the Maryland government has no trust or respect for the public school system and those who work in public schools, eroding hope for a vision of “World Class” schools in Maryland.

House Bill 25:

- Acts in tandem with larger national efforts to diminish the quality of education and weaken the trust between schools and families through book bans that disproportionately prohibit media that centers LGBTQ characters and children of color<sup>1</sup>;
- Mischaracterizes materials available in schools as “inappropriate” undermining the expertise of school staff including teachers and librarian who have foundational knowledge, pedagogy, and training to ensure media is best-suited for students<sup>2</sup>; and
- Creates a significant financial burden for certain Local Education Agencies including Anne Arundel County that have estimated that the passage of this bill would be “unsustainable and costly”.

It is the responsibility of the Maryland General Assembly to advance legislation that upholds a World Class education system – this proposed legislation would set a dangerous precedent in the erosion of our trust in and quality of Maryland public schools.

**For these reasons, we strongly urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 25.**

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<sup>1</sup> [Education Week](#)

<sup>2</sup> [National Education Association](#)