

TEL: 410-632-1194
FAX: 410-632-3131
WEB: www.co.worcester.md.us



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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Worcester County

GOVERNMENT CENTER
ONE WEST MARKET STREET • ROOM 1103
SNOW HILL, MARYLAND
21863-1195

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COUNTY ATTORNEY

February 24, 2025

Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 161

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

Worcester County opposes House Bill 161. This bill would require the Maryland State Department of Education to work with the Maryland Department of Health to develop a comprehensive health education framework. At the same time, this bill would require each county board of education to create an age-appropriate curriculum that is consistent with that framework while also developing policies, guidelines and procedures for a parent or guardian to opt out of the family life and human sexuality topics subject to a certain prohibition.

Curriculum should be a local school system concern, not the subject of legislation. Local school systems need the flexibility to implement the curriculum that makes sense for their students.

We are also firm believers in parental rights. Parents should have the ability to opt their child out of any component of the comprehensive health education framework.

Worcester County opposes HB 161 and we urge you to provide an unfavorable report. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Theodore J. Elder
President

Citizens and Government Working Together