



**HB763 – EDUCATION – SEXUAL ABUSE AND ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION
PROGRAM – HUMAN AND SEX TRAFFICKING**

March 20, 2025

EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB763 – Education – Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program – Human and Sex Trafficking**. This bill requires the State Board of Education and each nonpublic school in the State to develop and implement a program of age-appropriate education on the awareness of prevention of sexual abuse and assault that includes, for students in grades 6 through 8, material promoting the awareness of human and sex trafficking.

While this legislation is well-intentioned, AACPS opposes efforts by the General Assembly to legislate local public-school curriculum or assessments. Attempts to legislate curriculum only weaken the effectiveness of the entire educational program contrary to the interests of our students and obligations of school systems. The authority to establish curriculum and assessments is the domain of the State Board of Education and the local boards of education, the same entities charged with the responsibility to research, investigate, and evaluate both curriculum and assessments. Maintaining this authority with the State Board and local boards allows local boards of education to collaborate with the State and stakeholders to ensure that all students, schools, and school systems are held accountable.

Maryland public schools provide their students with a comprehensive Pre-K – 12 health education curriculum that focuses on a student’s development of protective life skills and promotes health and well-being. As part of this comprehensive health education curriculum, students are educated in Family Life and Human Sexuality as well as Safety and Violence Prevention. Students participate in age-appropriate instruction on the awareness and prevention of sexual abuse and assault. This instruction includes age-appropriate instruction on the meaning of consent and respect for personal boundaries. Safety and Violence Prevention is one of six core concepts that is part of the comprehensive skills-based health education program in grades 6-8.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB763.