



**Maryland Commission
on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

Bill Title: Education - Curriculum Standards - Requirements (Educate to Stop the Hate Act)

Bill Number(s): [SB0916](#)

Position: FAVORABLE

Date: March 3, 2025

Submitted by: Jeremy Browning, Director of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs

To:

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

The Hon. Brian J. Feldman, Chair
The Hon. Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair

Testimony on behalf of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs:

The Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs, created by the Maryland General Assembly, works to serve LGBTQIA+ Marylanders by galvanizing community voices, researching and addressing challenges, and advocating for policies that advance equity and inclusion. The Commission envisions a Maryland where all LGBTQIA+ people can live full and authentic lives. As a vital resource, the Commission collaborates with public officials, agencies, and community partners to ensure the rights and dignity of LGBTQIA+ Marylanders are protected and respected.

The Commission strongly supports SB 916, which establishes robust curriculum standards to counteract hate, bigotry, and prejudice in Maryland's schools. The Educate to Stop the Hate Act ensures that students learn about the historical roots and modern consequences of discrimination, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to foster an inclusive and just society.

A diverse and inclusive curriculum is essential to student success and well-being. Studies consistently show that when students see their identities represented in education, they experience higher levels of engagement, improved academic performance, and greater self-esteem. The [2021 GLSEN National School Climate Survey](#) found that LGBTQIA+ students in schools with LGBTQIA+-inclusive curricula had:

- Higher GPAs,
- Lower levels of depression,
- Greater interest in post-secondary education, and
- Decreased exposure to biased language and victimization.

Despite these benefits, only 26.7% of LGBTQIA+ youth in Maryland reported learning about positive representations of LGBTQIA+ history or contributions in school. Hate and discrimination thrive in environments where people lack knowledge of diverse experiences. SB 916 takes a critical step toward addressing this gap by mandating history and social studies instruction that includes the histories of historically marginalized communities, including LGBTQIA+ individuals.

For these reasons, the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs urges a favorable report on SB 916.

References:

GLSEN. (2022). *The 2021 National School Climate Survey: The experiences of LGBTQ+ youth in our nation's schools*. Retrieved from:
<https://www.glsen.org/research/2021-national-school-climate-survey>