



**Moms for Liberty Maryland Legislative Committee urges an unfavorable report for Senate Bill 916, *Education - Curriculum Standards - Requirements (Educate to Stop the Hate Act)*** which mandates the development and enforcement of specific content standards and curriculum resources for all Maryland schools, with the potential for withholding state funds from non-compliant districts. While we recognize the importance of combating hate, bigotry, and prejudice, this bill raises significant concerns regarding educational freedom, local control, and the potential for overreach in curriculum development.

The bill gives the State Department of Education substantial control over curriculum development. This could undermine local school boards' ability to make decisions based on their unique student populations, values, and needs. Local communities should retain the flexibility to adapt educational content to reflect their particular contexts rather than being subjected to a one-size-fits-all approach dictated by the state.

The bill's broad mandate to align all curricula with certain content standards poses the risk of politicizing education. Determining what constitutes "hate" or "prejudice" may lead to the imposition of subjective or politically driven content, undermining the objectivity that should characterize our educational system.

The pressure on schools to align teaching with mandated curriculum guides and risk losing funding if they fail to comply creates unnecessary administrative burdens. It diverts attention and resources away from addressing fundamental educational needs and fostering an environment of free and open academic inquiry.

Teachers, as trained professionals, should be entrusted with the responsibility to adapt their lessons based on their expertise and understanding of students' needs. The proposed restrictions and the imposition of standard curriculum resources could stifle creativity and limit teachers' autonomy to innovate in the classroom. For these reasons, **we strongly oppose SB 916**. It is crucial that education policy respects the rights of local communities, educators, and parents to shape curricula in a way that best serves their children's educational development without undue state interference. Thank you for considering our views on SB 916.