



Moms for Liberty Maryland Legislative Committee urges an unfavorable report for HB 0688: *Education - High School Graduation Requirements - Financial Aid Application*

If there is anything our public schools don't need, it's another mandate. Requirements to graduate should focus on raising the bar on academic proficiency. Unfortunately, MSDE has lowered graduation requirements and standards because our academic proficiency is abysmal. This bill will do nothing to address the academic decline our state is currently facing. It will, however, place a strain on our already stressed school administrators and local school systems.

This mandate will place additional strain on already dwindling school resources, as schools may need to provide more support for students and track opt-outs or waivers. Schools could face increased administrative costs to ensure compliance. Our schools are struggling as it is to keep up with the unfunded mandates of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Now is not the time to add another one.

We urge you to reconsider making this requirement for graduation mandate and respectfully request an Unfavorable Report for HB 0688.