

Bill Number: HB161
My Position: Favorable
Ways and Means Committee

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee.

I ask that you SUPPORT HB161.

Covid19 taught me that the health education that we Marylanders received in previous years was insufficient. The mental health crisis amongst our youth points to this as well. We need a more comprehensive curriculum that addresses mental health, emotional health, disease prevention and control, gender identity, sexual orientation, human sexuality, and more!

Numerous studies have shown that lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth have a higher rate of suicide attempts than their heterosexual peers do. According to a Trevor Project 2023 survey, 18% of LGBT youth had attempted suicide- which is a rate that is 2x higher than the overall teenage population.

This comprehensive curriculum will help those LGBTQ teenagers specifically, along with the rest of their peers. When we lift up the most vulnerable amongst us, we lift up everyone.

Please SUPPORT HB161.
Thank you for your consideration,

Rebecca Forte

Severna Park