

Bill Number: HB324
My Position: Favorable
Ways and Means Committee

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee.

I ask that you SUPPORT HB324. Without anti-bias training SchoolBoard members may be unintentionally inflicting harm on those who they intend to assist due to that person's attributes such as: race, gender identity, nation originals, religion, disability etc.

Anti-bias training helps to clarify ingrained and unconscious biases that we may not know that we have but are having an impact on those around us nonetheless.

A strong example of this is this riddle:

Q: "At the hospital the surgeon looks at the boy and says "I can't operate on this boy, he is my son." How can this be?"

A: The surgeon is the mother.

Nobody with anti-bias training falls for this riddle anymore because they've confronted their bias against the idea that the doctor has to be male.

The riddle only works for people who haven't had anti-bias training and forget things like "women can be doctors."

Please SUPPORT HB324.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rebecca Forte
Severna Park