

**HB 1277:** Education - Maryland Institute for Literacy and Equity - Establishment:  
Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Appropriations Committee:

I am writing to respectfully **oppose HB 1277**, concerning *Education – Maryland Institute for Literacy and Equity – Establishment*.

Improving literacy outcomes for Maryland students is an important and widely shared goal. However, creating a new state institute raises concerns about increased bureaucracy, administrative costs, and potential duplication of efforts that may already exist within the Maryland State Department of Education and local school systems.

**Establishing a new entity requires funding, staffing, and ongoing operational resources that could otherwise be directed more directly toward classrooms, teachers, and evidence-based literacy instruction (e.g., structured literacy, phonics-first approaches supported by the science of reading).** Maryland schools need more resources directed to teachers, smaller class sizes, evidence-based curricula, and targeted interventions. Strengthening and supporting those existing efforts may be a more efficient and cost-effective approach.

Additionally, creating another layer of administration may complicate coordination between state agencies, school districts, and educators rather than streamlining support for literacy improvement.

Maryland should prioritize solutions that maximize resources for students and teachers while avoiding unnecessary expansion of government structures.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **oppose HB 1277**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals