



Members of the House Committee of Education, Energy and the Environment;

Moms for Liberty Talbot strongly opposes HB 649.

This bill will destroy private/parochial schools in the State of Maryland by taking away the rights of these schools to control the standards/qualifications for admission, discipline, and curriculum. Parents are taxpayers who, while still supporting public schools through their taxes, choose private/parochial schools which reinforce their values and beliefs and will allow them to raise their children with these values and beliefs through their school choice. This bill would effectively put admission, discipline and academic programming in the hands of an unelected body to adjudicate every time a parent/community member decides they don't like what the private/parochial school in question is doing.

Seeking this control to the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR), will tack on a brand-new private right of action with exorbitant money damages as the possible consequence.

This would be disastrously expensive for Maryland counties, inviting a wave of lawsuits, forum shopping, and conflicting rulings, turning education disputes into a litigation free-for-all for lawyers, activists and with a child's school caught in the crosshairs.

Meanwhile, the danger is even worse for faith-based schools. The bill expands enforcement and litigation risk while leaving them at the mercy of Maryland's inadequate religious liberty protections. HB 649 arms unelected commissioners and disgruntled plaintiffs with all but unlimited power to punish schools for living out their religious convictions on marriage, sexuality, and school conduct while treating constitutional protections as a dead letter. [HB0649](#) must be stopped.

We strongly urge you to vote against this bill.

Sincerely,

Jan Greenhawk
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