

SB 174: State Board of Education - Enforcement Procedures - Alteration: Please vote **IN SUPPORT** of this bill.

Dear Education, Energy & the Environment Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for **SB 174**, which restores essential due-process protections and appropriate limits on the State Board of Education's enforcement authority.

Enforcement authority must be exercised transparently, consistently, and with clear procedural safeguards—particularly when actions taken by the State Board can significantly affect local school systems, educators, and communities. **Clear procedures, notice, and the opportunity to be heard are not optional—they are fundamental requirements of due process.** **SB 174** ensures enforcement actions are governed by defined standards rather than discretionary or opaque processes. By strengthening procedural requirements, the bill promotes accountability and ensures that affected parties receive notice, an opportunity to respond, and fair consideration before enforcement actions are imposed.

Local school boards are elected and directly accountable to their communities. **SB 174** respects that structure by reinforcing that state oversight must operate within clear procedural boundaries, consistent with separation-of-powers principles and basic fairness. Strong public education depends not only on standards, but on trust—trust that rules will be applied fairly, authority will be limited, and decisions will be made transparently. **SB 174** moves Maryland in that direction.

State authority should not displace local governance without transparent justification and lawful process. By clarifying enforcement procedures, **SB 174** protects educators, local boards, and communities from arbitrary action while preserving the State Board's proper oversight role. This balance strengthens confidence in Maryland's education system and reinforces trust in government decision-making.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **support SB 174**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals