

Yes on HB116/SB147

Esteemed Chair and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

Trust and transparency are important to our schools. HB116/SB147 will help stakeholders including parents and community members understand and be aware of the organizations that are working with our schools. The current situation includes an inadvertent lack of transparency, which harms trust and can lead to misunderstandings.

Allowing school staff and leadership to simply direct parents to a website listing organizations working with our schools will save time and facilitate accurate communication. The information will also be a helpful resource to individuals and businesses interested in finding trusted organizations.

Please give HB116 /SB147 a favorable report.

Reading the bill, it seems wise to have a slight change. The Bill currently contains this wording:

19 (2) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A PROCUREMENT CONTRACT
20 OR MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING THAT INCLUDES INFORMATION
THAT:

21 (I) MAY BE WITHHELD FROM DISCLOSURE BY LAW; OR

22 (II) IS PROHIBITED FROM DISCLOSURE BY LAW

I propose that, instead of exempting entire contracts or memoranda of understanding, that where possible, the contract or memorandum of understanding still be listed with the non-disclosable information redacted.

Thank you,
Rebekah Esko
Ellicott City