

HJ 003: Elementary and Secondary Education - Curriculum - Importance of Diversity:
Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Rules & Executive Nominations Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **OPPOSE** House Joint Resolution 3 during committee consideration or floor votes.

While respect for all individuals is a foundational principle, this resolution is unnecessary, overly broad, and will turn public education into a vehicle for ideological messaging rather than academic excellence. **Maryland schools already teach respect, civics, history, and inclusion through existing standards, anti-bullying policies, and nondiscrimination rules and policies. Mandating that “diversity” be treated as a central, overarching theme in every subject area creates subjective interpretation, politicization of the classroom, and the potential introduction of age-inappropriate or biased content under the guise of “diversity education.”**

Parents—not state resolutions—should have the primary role in guiding discussions about values, identity, and social issues with their children. Local school systems and educators are best positioned to decide how to address cultural and historical topics in a balanced, evidence-based, and academically focused way, without a one-size-fits-all state directive that could pressure teachers to prioritize ideological framing over core subjects such as reading, math, science, and U.S. history.

Maryland students need schools focused on academic achievement, critical thinking, and preparation for college or careers—not on advancing a particular social or political worldview through the curriculum. This resolution adds another layer of top-down pressure that distracts from those priorities.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote against HJ 003.**

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of my concerns regarding this important education policy and social policy issue.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals