

**Subject:** Opposition to HB 1438 – State Board of Education – Public High School Graduation Requirements

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gina Gibson, and I am a parent and resident of Harford County, Maryland. I am writing to express concerns about **HB 1438** regarding the review and revision of Maryland's public high school graduation requirements.

Periodic review of graduation requirements is both reasonable and necessary. Education evolves, workforce expectations change, and it is appropriate for the State Board of Education to evaluate whether Maryland students are being adequately prepared for college, careers, and civic life. However, any review process should be guided by a clear principle: **standards should be strengthened where needed, but they should not be lowered.**

Parents and families rely on the state's graduation standards to represent meaningful academic achievement. A Maryland high school diploma should continue to signal that a student has met rigorous expectations and is prepared for the next stage of life. If the review process contemplated under HB 1438 results in weakened academic requirements, it risks undermining the value of the diploma and lowering expectations for students at a time when strong preparation is more important than ever.

As a parent, I support thoughtful and deliberate evaluation of graduation standards. Such reviews should focus on ensuring that Maryland's requirements remain rigorous, relevant, and aligned with the skills students need for success. The goal should be to strengthen academic preparation—not dilute it.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to carefully reconsider HB 1438 unless clear safeguards are included to ensure that any review process maintains or strengthens Maryland's graduation standards rather than lowering them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gina Gibson  
Harford County, Maryland