



NOTRE DAME  
OF MARYLAND  
UNIVERSITY

**House Ways and Means Committee**  
**HB807 – Education - Teacher Preparation Programs - English Language Learner Teacher**  
**Competency Requirements**  
*February 25, 2026*  
**Favorable**

On behalf of Notre Dame of Maryland University (NDMU) and the nearly 2,400 students that we serve, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **support** of [HB807 – Education - Teacher Preparation Programs - English Language Learner Teacher Competency Requirements](#). This bill would require a teacher preparation program to include certain training in English language learner-related teacher competencies and include English language learner-related teacher competencies in other courses throughout the curriculum; and require a teacher preparation program to include a certain course in teaching English language learners beginning in the 2028-2029 academic year.

NDMU is a private, Catholic university established in 1895 in Baltimore City with the mission to educate leaders to transform the world. NDMU offers a wide variety of full- and part-time undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and certificate programs for women and men. The University enrolls approximately 2,400 students and has Schools of Arts, Sciences, and Business; Education; Nursing; Pharmacy and Health Professions; and Integrative Health. **NDMU’s School of Education is the largest private provider of new teacher certifications in the State, and the second largest overall among public and private institutions of higher education.**

NDMU is grateful for its strong long-running partnerships with the State, counties, and LEAs to prepare the next generation of Maryland’s teachers. As you may know, Notre Dame serves a unique and diverse population of students. In the traditional undergraduate college, 83% of our students are Maryland residents and 56% are individuals of a minority ethnic background. Many of these students are first generation (45%), and nearly half (48%) are Pell Grant eligible and rely on a combination of federal, state, and institutional financial aid to support their educational pursuits. In 2025, U.S. News and World Report ranked NDMU #10 on the Best Value Schools in the Regional University North (RUN) category (#2 in MD) and #22 in the Top Performers on Social Mobility, making it #1 among Maryland institutions in RUN.

According to MSDE’s [Blueprint for Maryland’s Future: Workgroup on English Learners in Public Schools Report](#), in school year 2021-2022, Maryland’s K-12 English/Multilingual learner population comprised 98,567 students who speak 189 languages. According to the MD Report Card (2025), that number has increased to 121,985 or 13.6% of enrolled public PK-12 students. NDMU believes it is important for our PK-12 teachers to be adequately prepared to educate our state’s increasingly diverse student population. To that end, NDMU’s PK-12 education initial licensure programs on the bachelors and masters level already include a dedicated three-credit course to educate students on various approaches, methods and techniques appropriate for the teaching of reading and writing to English Language Learners (ELL). Furthermore, NDMU

incorporates various ELL elements throughout the curriculum in reading and methods courses. While total program credits may vary depending on the number of initial licensure areas sought on the undergraduate level (e.g. Elementary Education, along with Early Childhood, Special Education, and/or TESOL specializations), single specialization initial licensure students are able to graduate within 120 credits. Dual, tri, or quad specialization students may exceed 120 credits but are receiving multiple areas of licensure and may have more diverse employment options.

For these reasons, NDMU supports HB807. We thank you in advance for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Contact:**

Greg FitzGerald  
Chief of Staff & Vice President for Planning  
and External Affairs  
Notre Dame of Maryland University  
(410) 532-5109  
[gfitzgerald@ndm.edu](mailto:gfitzgerald@ndm.edu)

Juliann Dupuis, Ph.D.  
Dean of the School of Education  
Notre Dame of Maryland University  
(410) 532-5148  
[jdupuis@ndm.edu](mailto:jdupuis@ndm.edu)