

**SB 648/HB 856:** Local School Systems - Educator Screening - Educator Identification Clearinghouse (School Personnel Vetting and Hiring Transparency Act): Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Ways & Means Committee:

I am writing as a resident of Maryland to express my strong support for **SB 648/HB 856**, the School Personnel Vetting and Hiring Transparency Act.

In an era when educators can move between states, having access to this centralized screening tool is common-sense policy. It helps ensure that individuals with serious prior professional misconduct are identified early in the hiring process, adding an important layer of protection for students and maintaining high standards in our public schools. The bill also reinforces existing requirements that newly hired educators obtain the proper Maryland license before interacting with children.

Key benefits of this bill include:

- Enhanced student safety through better nationwide vetting of educators.
- Greater transparency and consistency in the hiring process across all 24 Maryland school systems.
- Prevention of situations where educators with revoked or suspended licenses in other states could slip through the cracks.

The modest cost to the state for membership and subscriptions is a worthwhile investment compared to the potential risks of inadequate screening. This is a proactive, responsible step that prioritizes the well-being of Maryland's children. Strengthening educator screening protects students and builds greater public confidence in our school system.

I respectfully urge you to support **SB 648/HB 856** and vote in favor of its final passage.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals