



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

HB 1334 - Education - Engagement Policies and School Compact (Maryland Public Education Parental Partnership Act)

POSITION: Unfavorable

BY: Linda T. Kohn, President

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The League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD) is a nonpartisan organization that supports policies that provide an equitable, adequate, and quality education for all children. LWVMD requests an **unfavorable report on HB 1334**, which mandates local boards of education to adopt and implement broad parental engagement policies.

HB1334 imposes an unfunded mandate on local schools and places an unnecessary bureaucratic burden on already over-stressed systems that will divert time and resources from essential student services. Many of the requirements in the bill already exist, such as opportunities for parents to meet with school staff, reports on student academic progress. HB1334 also has the potential to infringe on the professional roles and responsibilities of educators. And it's unclear how defining the ways parents should support their student's learning and academic progress can be enforced.

In Maryland, the Maryland Constitution places the primary responsibility for public education with the state.¹ The Maryland Code of Regulations (COMAR) delegates the supervision and administration of the state's elementary and secondary public schools to the Maryland State Board of Education and state superintendent. While local education agencies can select textbooks and instructional materials, these must align with curriculum standards, learning goals, and graduation criteria set by the state.²

HB1334 raises questions about how much participation parents can or should have to participate in local school system decisions that pertain to the education of students. Parents have the constitutional right to make educational decisions for their own child but cannot decide what other children should learn and impose that on a school. LWVMD recommends an **unfavorable report on HB1334**.

¹ Md.Const., Education, art 8 § 1. <https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/43const/html/08art8.html>

² Md. Code Ann., Education § 7-106. Curriculum materials.

[https://govt.westlaw.com/mdc/Document/NCF55A110A7E011DBB5DDAC3692B918BC?viewType=FullText&origin=atoc&context=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=\(sc.Default\)](https://govt.westlaw.com/mdc/Document/NCF55A110A7E011DBB5DDAC3692B918BC?viewType=FullText&origin=atoc&context=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=(sc.Default))