

**RE: FAVORABLE POSITION – House Bill 116, School Board Transparency Act**

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **strong support of House Bill 116, the School Board Transparency Act**, introduced by Delegate April Miller.

Parents have a fundamental right to know **who has access to their children during the school day and under what authority**. Yet across Maryland, school boards routinely enter into *Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)* and so-called “*no-cost*” *agreements* with outside organizations—often without public notice, discussion, or approval. Because no money changes hands, these agreements frequently bypass budget oversight and remain hidden from parents and taxpayers.

House Bill 116 addresses this lack of transparency with simple, reasonable safeguards:

- **All contracts and MOUs must be publicly posted** on the school system’s website
- **No dollar threshold**—whether the agreement costs \$1,000,000 or \$0, the public has a right to see it
- **A 30-day posting requirement** to ensure timely disclosure

This bill does **not** restrict school boards from partnering with outside groups. It does **not** ban programs or ideas. It simply ensures **sunlight, accountability, and parental awareness**.

When outside organizations—political, ideological, or otherwise—are granted access to students, parents deserve to know **who they are, what they are providing, and under what terms**. Transparency is not an obstacle to education; it is a cornerstone of public trust.

HB 116 prevents “shadow policies” from entering our schools through unvetted partnerships and restores confidence that decisions affecting children are being made openly and responsibly.

I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE report on House Bill 116** and stand with Maryland parents, students, and taxpayers in support of transparency in our public schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Adams  
Cecil County, Elkton  
Concerned Citizen