

Ways and Means Committee
House Bill 1334
Unfavorable

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee;

Please give House Bill 1334 an unfavorable report.

It's ridiculous that the same party that opposes an increase in taxes for schools and opposes an increase in pay for teachers would require so much additional work from them. If parents aren't already engaged with their children's educations, it's because they're working long hours in order to support them (something that Republicans prefer over wage increases,) because they don't want to be, or because their children don't trust them to not be abusive.

Parents who want this bill should consider homeschooling instead. Homeschooling gives parents an opportunity to completely control their children's educations, something that public schooling isn't designed to do (for good reasons.) Is homeschooling cost-prohibitive for some people? Well, Republicans are always saying that people can do anything they set their minds to, it's just a matter of putting in the effort. Surely, that includes making homeschooling work. If parents think that teachers and administrators should put in the extreme amount of additional hours to meet the requirements of this bill, then it would be more than fair to expect the parents to put in the same amount of time and effort for their children. That requires homeschooling.

In order to spare underpaid and underappreciated teachers, and to protect the privacy of LGBTQIA+ students who don't feel safe coming out to their parents (many of whom would assault them and/or kick them out), I urge an unfavorable report on HB1334. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Debi Jasen (who sacrificed a lot in order to homeschool two children PreK-12, in part to protect them from the bigots who push for these kinds of bills and the children they raise to be bullies.)
Pasadena, MD