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Ways and Means Committee

Education Subcommittee

Election Law Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Delegate Alice Cain
Before the House Ways and Means Committee

In Support of HB476

Education - Certification in Secondary Education Content Areas - Expanded Grade Range

Chair Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB476. This bill is a simple fix to a simple problem. In a nutshell, it aligns teacher certification with the shift from “junior high” schools to “middle” schools by allowing teachers who are certified in secondary education to teach their subject in any grade ranging from 6 through 12.

Middle schools now include grade 6, but secondary certification starts at grade 7. This means middle schools must hire both secondary certified teachers to teach grades 7 and 8, and elementary certified teachers to teach grade 6.

This bill aligns secondary teacher certification with our current middle school system by adding 6th grade certification in the secondary education certificate.

Lastly, the idea for this bill came from a teacher who I consider to be one of the most talented, dedicated educators in our state, who you will hear from next.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on this bill.