

BILL: Senate Bill 470
TITLE: Institute for Innovation and Implementation - Pregnant, Expecting, and Parenting Students - Data Collection and Report
POSITION: OPPOSE
DATE: February 25, 2021
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) opposes Senate Bill 470 and the proposal to mandate the significant amount of specified data collection by local school systems and staff.

This bill would require five school systems, including Charles, Prince George's, Washington, and Wicomico counties and Baltimore City, to collect, track, and submit extensive information about their pregnant, expecting, and parenting students to the Institute for Innovation and Implementation in the University of Maryland School of Social Work.

MABE appreciates the intended benefit of this information to the students and staff of the Institute for Innovation and Implementation housed at the University of Maryland's esteemed School of Social Work. However, MABE respectfully requests that non-legislative approaches would be more appropriate than legislating such an arrangement. Based on serious concerns about the precedent it would set with regard to governing collaborative arrangements between local school systems and institutions of higher education, and the breadth and scope of the imposition on local school system personnel, MABE opposes Senate Bill 470.

Again, MABE appreciates the value of building working relationships between the Institute and local school systems toward the objective of developing programs and services that produce improved outcomes for students and families. MABE simply opposes defining this relationship in the Annotated Code.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 470.