



Secular Maryland

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March 10, 2022

### **SB 666 - SUPPORT**

Schools, Prekindergarten Programs, and County Boards of Education – Discrimination

Dear Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceeding Committee,

Invidious discrimination hurts us as a society, it divides people and impedes people from realizing their potential. The government sector in particular has a responsibility to not participate in, or otherwise facilitate, invidious discrimination. There should be no exception for government education policy. This bill requiring all elementary and secondary schools receiving government funding to uphold government non-discrimination standards, with strengthened enforcement procedures, is welcome. Secular Maryland recommends this bill for approval by the General Assembly.

Everyone wants their children to be safe. Too often people who are unlike ourselves are seen as threatening, triggering misdirected fear. Minorities can be vulnerable to negative stereotyping. Some theists deem non-theism to be peculiar, unreasonable, or threatening. They misunderstand non-theism and may associate non-theism with negative behavior. The metaphysical naturalism underlying non-theism is an intellectual conclusion that nontheists (deists, agnostics, atheists) sincerely consider to be more compelling than the competing conclusions.

Respectfully,  
Mathew Goldstein  
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