



Maryland Education Coalition



Shanetta Martin & Sue Fothergill, Co-Chairs

Web site - www.marylandeducationcoalition.org

Email – md.education.coaliton@gmail.com

Date: March 3, 2022

BILL: HB 850

POSITION: SUPPORT

COMMITTEE: [Ways and Means](#)

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

[The Maryland Education Coalition \(MEC\)](#) supports HB 850- Schools, Prekindergarten Programs, and County Boards of Education – Discrimination – Prohibition. This bill would prohibit any public or nonpublic Prekindergarten program or school receiving public funds from discriminating or penalize persons who file complaints from discrimination defined within several classifications consistent with MEC's position described below. It will codify anti-discrimination practices with reporting, review, and accountability measures. HB 850 will also require programs to maintain a written anti-discrimination policy, consistent with the public education requirements and MEC's standing position on discrimination (see below), while protecting students, staff and families and guardians from retaliation due to discipline related issues and provides an avenue to file complaints.

MEC supports public-private partnership of publicly-funded pre-kindergarten, Head Start, and other early intervention programs, but they must be for all children in Maryland with priority access to economically disadvantaged students and students with the greatest risk of falling behind during the early years. We also believe that Pre-school education programs must be coordinated with state approved child-care and other services as needed. Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) must be fully funded and fully implemented to ensure appropriate interventions for infants and toddlers with disabilities.

MEC Position on Discrimination - MEC opposes discrimination against staff, students, parents/guardians or visitors by age, culture, economic status, educational background, ethnicity, gender, geographic location, language, marital status, mental ability, national origin, parental status, physical ability, political philosophy, race, religion, sexual orientation, or work experience. This position applies to any public or private program that receives public funds.

MEC is the oldest, largest, most diverse and experience group of public education advocates in Maryland with a long history of success support of all students in Maryland from Pre-K to 12th grade committed to working collaboratively with the General Assembly, Maryland Education and child-support professionals to ensure that all children in Maryland have access to quality public education and student services that will allow them to graduate college or career-ready.

Therefore, we urge a favorable report of HB 850.

Respectfully yours,

Shanetta Martin & Sue Fothergill, Co-Chairs

American Civil Liberties Union of MD, Arts Education in Maryland Schools, Arts Every Day, Attendance Works, CASA, Children's Behavioral Health Coalition, Decoding Dyslexia of MD, Disability Rights Maryland, League of Women Voters of MD, Let Them See Clearly, Right to Read Maryland, Maryland Coalition for Community Schools, Maryland Coalition for Gifted & Talented Ed, Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition, Maryland Out of School Time Network, Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education, MSC-NAACP, Maryland School Psychologists' Association, Parent Advocacy Consortium, Public Justice Center, School Social Workers of MD, Strong Schools Maryland, Kalman Hettleman, David Hornbeck, Shanetta Martin, Sharon Rubinstein, Rick Tyler, Jr.