



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

HB 850 Schools, Prekindergarten Programs, and County Boards of Education - Discrimination

POSITION: Support

BY: Nancy Soreng – President

Date: March 3, 2022

The League of Women Voters (LWVMD) is a nonpartisan organization that works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and advocacy. The League supports social policies that secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all, and that promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans. While LWVMD opposes public funding for vouchers or other aid for private and parochial schools, we support measures to forbid discrimination by schools that do receive such aid.

Therefore, LWVMD supports HB 850 which would codify anti-discrimination protections for all students, Pre-K-12 who are enrolled in public schools and in schools receiving public funding. This bill prohibits schools that receive State funds, from refusing enrollment of a prospective student, expelling a current student, or withholding privileges from or otherwise discriminating against a current or prospective student, or the parent or guardian of a current or prospective student, on the basis of an individual's race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. There would be a complaint, mediation, and appeal process for violations. All or part of State funding may be withheld from a board, program, or school that violates the nondiscrimination requirements.

The League of Women Voters of Maryland with 1500+ members urges the committee to give a favorable report to HB 850