



Maryland Education Coalition

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**SB1060 - Nonpublic Elementary and Secondary Schools - Discrimination - Prohibition
Judicial Proceedings Committee**

Position – SUPPORT

The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) is a coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to improving outcomes for all students in Maryland schools by promoting equal access to high quality programs and services, adequate and equitable funding for public education, and vigorous systemic accountability.

We work to promote successful education outcomes for all students, **regardless of jurisdiction, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, English language learner status, or disability**. We believe Maryland must fully fund public education programs to realize its constitutional guarantee that all children in the state have access to a "*a thorough and efficient system of public education*" and oppose the use of public funds for non-public schools.

The Maryland Education Coalition opposes the use of public funding for private schools for a variety of reasons. If the state chooses to subsidize these schools, MEC believes all private schools that desire to receive public funds must adhere to the same anti-discrimination policies that all public schools in Maryland must abide by as defined by the Maryland State Board, the US Department of Education and other related laws.

For example, the language provided in the budget¹ for the BOOST fund and the textbook and technology fund, only requires private schools receiving public funds to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended. This however, is simply outdated and does not provide protections for marital status, gender identity, or disability as followed by public schools. This bill seeks to extend the anti-discrimination policy of private schools receiving public funds to incorporate these components.

Therefore, we support SB1060 and urge a favorable report by the committee.

¹ SB0185 - Entitled: Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2019)