

Committees:

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Sponsor Testimony on House Bill 748
Before the House Committee on Primary & Secondary Education
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Chair Manning, Ranking Member Robinson, and Members of the House Primary & Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony for House Bill 748: to require schools adopt policy regarding staff member professional duties.

For a K-12 teacher, finding the right balance in the classroom can be a challenge. We should want our teachers and students to deal with the tough topics. We should want our students to be exposed to the points in our history that our country did not get right.

Further, we should expect our teachers to expose our students to a variety of viewpoints on challenging issues. We should expect our teachers to provide vital and relevant information despite how it might portray our country's past. We should expect our students to become discerning consumers of information. We should expect our students to evaluate and analyze the source of information. Finally, we want our students to make their own reasoned judgements supported by evidence.

I believe that the vast majority of teachers are doing the above with high standards. However, I continue to hear stories of a few teachers who go beyond this standard and push their own beliefs on students. In light of this, I will soon be introducing a bill that is limited in scope but addresses this concern of parents and students.

Specifically, this bill requires a local board of education to adopt a policy that a teacher shall not:

- 1. Compel a student to adopt or affirm a certain belief.**
- 2. Unfairly evaluate student work because it does not reflect a certain viewpoint.**

Under this bill, the enforcement of this Board policy will fall upon the local Board of Education. Effectively, a local Board will be able to deal with violations much quicker than the Department of Education, which often can take a year or more to investigate allegations of professional misconduct by teachers.

Chair Manning and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important piece of legislation today. I am happy to answer your questions.