The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes HB723 EDUCATION – PARTNERSHIP FOR ASSESSMENT OF READINESS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREERS (PARCC) ASSESSMENT – ADMINISTRATION. This bill would require the Maryland State Department of Education, in entering or renewing a contract for the administration of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers assessment or a successor assessment, to require that each segment of the assessment be administered within a 40-minute time period.

Although Anne Arundel County Public (AACPS) is not opposed to a shorter overall testing experience, limiting each section of PARCC or other assessment to 40 minutes greatly limits the standards that may be assessed. As such, we are opposed to an arbitrary time limit that does not reflect the time necessary for students to demonstrate their understanding of standards in a meaningful way. If the segments are limited to 40 minutes, more segments will be required to complete the assessment. This would, in turn, increase the number of days required to complete testing and cause disruption to schools. Additionally, it is highly unlikely that PARCC would redesign its assessment for the State of Maryland only as it is used throughout the United States.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests an UNFAVORABLE committee report on HB723.