The Anne Arundel County Board of Education OPPOSES House Bill 141. This Bill requires the State Board to adopt regulations that limit the amount of time in the aggregate that may be devoted to federal, state, and locally mandated tests for each grade to 2% of the minimum required annual instructional hours. Time devoted to teacher-selected classroom quizzes and exams, portfolio reviews, or performance assessments may not be counted toward the 2% testing limit.

Providing an artificial cap on testing takes away the ability of a school system to determine the best approach for assessing students and determining student progress and learning. Many assessments are mandated for federal or state accountability purposes and counting those in the 2% cap on assessments leaves little discretion for local school systems in meeting the assessment needs of their students locally thus hindering a school system’s ability to provide quality instruction. Additionally, assessment is a constant part of the teaching and learning cycle and should be part of instruction, so to put a 2% cap on something that should be part of the teaching and learning process is misleading and may not me positively impactful for students.

Accordingly, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education urges the House Ways and Means Committee to issue an UNFAVORABLE Report on House Bill 141.