



HB567 EDUCATION - PUBLIC AND NONPUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS - ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AWARENESS INSTRUCTION

February 21, 2019

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

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The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County supports **HB567 Education - Public and Nonpublic High Schools - Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Instruction**. This bill requires county boards of education to provide instruction on organ and tissue donation and registration as part of a specified curriculum in grades 9 through 12 in public schools beginning in the 2020-2021 school year. The bill encourages county boards of education to provide instruction on organ and tissue donation and registration as part of a specified curriculum in grades 9 through 12 in public schools beginning in the 2019-2020 school year.

AACPS opposes efforts by the General Assembly to legislate curriculum, courses of instruction, assessments, or graduation requirements, firmly believing that this role belongs to local boards of education in conjunction with the State Board of Education. In creating the State Board and local boards of education, the General Assembly has delegated to them the responsibility for guiding and delivering a high quality statewide system of public education through State standards and accountability measures, and locally governed and administered curriculum, teaching, and learning. By retaining decision-making authority at the local level, local boards of education can best balance educational practices, available resources to implement those practices, public input, and accountability.

However, AACPS recognizes the importance of organ and tissue donation and, as such, AACPS requests that the proposed legislation be amended to “ENCOURAGE” rather than “REQUIRE” county boards of education to provide age-appropriate instruction on organ and tissue donation and registration to students. This would highlight the issue of organ and tissue donation while still retaining local authority and allowing school systems to determine what works best for their students and their schools.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on HB567 with the recommended amendment.