The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the state's boards of education, opposes House Bill 9.

Local boards of education appreciate the consistent recognition of this committee and the General Assembly of the role and responsibilities of local boards of education, in conjunction with the State Board of Education and Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), for adopting educational policies, regulations and procedures consistent with state and federal law. MABE, on behalf of Maryland's 24 local school boards, consistently advocates that such recognition warrants legislative restraint in the areas of curriculum and assessments. And in this light, MABE appreciates that House Bill 9 focuses more on requiring progress reports on the delivery of instruction in financial literacy and health education than on proposing more prescriptive curricular mandates in these areas. However, MABE does not believe that the additional reporting requirements proposed in this legislation are necessary to ensure continued instruction in these important content areas. In addition, local school systems continue to confront the challenge of complying with the vast array of federal and state mandated accountability and reporting requirements, with limited and in many cases greatly reduced financial resources, and request that no new statutory requirements be imposed.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on House Bill 9.