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**BILL:** House Bill 547  
**TITLE:** Education – Head Start Program – Annual Appropriation  
**DATE:** February 8, 2018  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**COMMITTEE:** Appropriations  
**CONTACT:** John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the state's local boards of education, supports House Bill 547.

MABE appreciates the sponsor for introducing House Bill 547 to ensure an annual appropriation of at least \$3,000,000 for the Head Start Program. During the past several years a top legislative priority for local school systems has been to advocate for early childhood education programs, especially for our most vulnerable children.

Local boards recognize the research that supports early childhood education and the future impact it has on our youngest students to stay on track, complete high school, and be college and career ready upon graduation. From a fiscal standpoint, the long-term return on investment is well worth the expenditure.

For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on House Bill 547.