

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

2644 Riva Road • Annapolis • Maryland • 21401

BILL: SB665 EDUCATION – ROBOTICS GRANT PROGRAM – NONPROFIT ROBOTICS CLUBS

HEARING DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2018

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

POSITION: OPPOSE

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The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes **SB665 EDUCATION – ROBOTICS GRANT PROGRAM – NONPROFIT ROBOTICS CLUBS**. This bill would alter the eligibility requirements for existing nonprofit robotics clubs to receive a grant under the State’s Robotics Grant Program regardless of whether the nonprofit robotics club is associated with a public school.

The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County is committed to maximize the potential of new and emerging technologies to improve student outcomes and better prepare all students for the workforce needs of the 21st Century. However, the Board opposes the diversion of public education funds to nonpublic schools. The diversion of public funds to nonpublic schools is likely to have serious economic, constitutional, legal, and public policy consequences. If public funds were used for the support of nonpublic schools, fewer resources would be available for public elementary and secondary schools. The diversion of public funds to nonpublic schools would impede the ability of localities to ensure an appropriate, safe, and equitable education for all students. Further, students in schools with limited parental/guardian and community support would be disadvantaged. Unlike public schools, private schools have no direct accountability to taxpayers for their use of tax revenues.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB665.