

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

TITLE: Education – Public Schools Holidays – Veterans’ Day

BILL NUMBER: HB 626

POSITION: OPPOSE

HEARING DATE: February 25, 2016

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

CONTACT PERSON: Jessica S. Cuches, Esq. 410-224-8561

The Anne Arundel County Board of Education **OPPOSES** House Bill 626. This Bill adds Veterans’ Day to the public school holidays (when school cannot be open - except in case of an emergency) and deletes Columbus Day from a day when public schools shall devote a part of the day to appropriate exercises.

The school calendar is under the authority of the local school board and should remain that way without additional legislative mandates restricting the Board’s ability to best meet the needs of their students’ unique scheduling and educational needs within their respective counties. Veterans’ Day is better honored and observed through the opening of schools so schools can host Veterans’ Day speakers, assemblies, and special ceremonies. This issue has repeatedly been discussed with our school system’s calendar committee over the years and overwhelmingly parents and active military members report they want to observe Veterans’ Day by opening schools.

Accordingly, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education urges the House Ways and Means Committee to issue an **UNFAVORABLE** Report on House Bill 626.