



904 Cannon Road
Colesville, MD 20904
February 20, 2011

Ways and Means Committee
Attn: Sheila Hixson, Chair
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB44 *Maintenance of Effort*

Dear Chairman Hixson:

The Montgomery County Civic Federation (MCCF)* membership voted on February 14, 2011 to strongly support House Bill 44. MCCF supported the same bill last year, but it was not enacted because time ran out at the end of the session.

HB44 modifies the current law to provide reasonable criteria for the state board of education in granting a waiver to the MOE requirement. The MOE goal is a good one but expenditure of funds on education must be balanced with funding for other critical public services. It appears that the board of education would not grant a waiver under the existing code even if that meant all other public services would be terminated. There are many other critical services that must continue to receive funding at some level, including police, fire, and transportation. The current law has produced unreasonable results and must be modified.

We strongly urge the legislature to promptly enact Bill HB44.

.Sincerely,

Daniel L. Wilhelm
MCCF Vice President and Legislative Committee Chair

Cc: Montgomery County Delegation

* MCCF is a coalition of citizens' associations and other groups from throughout Montgomery County.