



TESTIMONY TO THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COUNCIL

RE: Bill 81-21 (An ordinance concerning: General Provisions – Prohibition against Use of County Funds or Resources to Promote or Require Discrimination)

POSITION: Oppose

DATE: October 18, 2021

BY: Alfa Stevens, President

The League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County strongly opposes Bill 81-21. We believe it runs counter to the values of the League and, in fact, to the values and intent of an educational system in a democracy where civil and respectful exchange of ideas and communication of factually-supported information should be embraced.

The proposed bill represents an intrusive and suppressive attempt, through legislation, to censor one or more aspects of curriculum—and, therefore, threatens any and all aspects of current or future curriculum.

The sponsor of the bill implicitly acknowledges that discrimination existed in the past but advocates that current generations not bear responsibility for the actions of their forbears. The actions of those forebears created economic and social problems that affect our collective general welfare today.

The League believes that it is the role of **responsible** government to share in the **solution** of problems, not hide from them. Further, the League does not believe it is the role of government to determine what school curriculum shall and shall not be. Human instinct is to try to protect our children, but younger generations continually demonstrate their strength and resilience when offered facts and opportunity.

LWVAAC urges County Council to vote against Bill 81-21.