



## **MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850



**Bill:** House Bill 996  
**Title:** Education - Public School Holidays - Easter Monday  
**Committee:** Ways and Means  
**Date:** February 26, 2016  
**Position:** **SUPPORT**  
**Contact:** Michael Durso, President, Montgomery County Board of Education

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports House Bill 996.

House Bill 996 repeals the requirement that the Monday after Easter be a public school holiday; and authorizes a county board of education to designate the Monday after Easter as a public school holiday.

We applaud the intent of this bill to return the authority to our local county boards to make the determination concerning the Monday after Easter as a school holiday. Montgomery County Public Schools strongly advocates that school-related calendar decisions should be determined locally and based on meeting the academic needs of our students, providing professional development for our faculties, and honoring the wishes of our communities. Meeting the 180-day school calendar regulation is a complex issue. Major snowstorms like we just experienced add additional school calendar problems that need to be resolved.

Repealing the Easter Monday requirement rightly restores this authority to local boards. It is critical that local school systems maintain local control of school calendars. It also permits local communities the decision making authority to respond to parent needs.

On behalf of my colleagues on the Board of Education, thank you for your consideration and we urge a favorable report.