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BILL NO.: **HB 718**

TITLE: State Department of Education – Early Literacy and Dyslexia Practices – Guidance and Assistance

SPONSOR: Delegate Luedtke

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 19, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 718 – State Department of Education – Early Literacy and Dyslexia Practices – Guidance and Assistance. This legislation would establish a stakeholder advisory group to develop a reading and dyslexia handbook and make the handbook available by June 1, 2021.

Scientists estimate that between five and twelve percent of children in the United States have dyslexia, but public schools often do not have adequate resources to provide these children with the help they need. HB 718 provides schools with materials and a system of evidence-based intervention for helping dyslexic children. Creating a standardized pathway to intervention and support would make it easier for teachers to aid their students.

As a former educator, County Executive Olszewski understands the importance of giving students the support they need to learn. HB 718 is a statement that Maryland cares about these young people and wants to invest in their success.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 718. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, 443-900-6582.