



Student Homelessness
Initiative Partnership
of Frederick County

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HB 640 - SUPPORT

Testimony of the Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership (SHIP) of Frederick County in Support of HB 640

Repeal of Failure to Obey a Reasonable and Lawful Order
House Judiciary Committee • February 12th, 2021

Chairman Clippinger and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 640, on behalf of the Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership (SHIP) of Frederick County. SHIP believes in the power and positive impact of education that will alter the trajectory of a life. Operating at the intersection of education and homelessness, SHIP works to reduce barriers to academic attainment for youth experiencing homelessness and connect them to community, resources, youth-centric programming, while advocating for equity in the systems that serve young people.

SHIP of Frederick County supports HB 640 because it perfectly aligns with our mission and would improve the lives of our unhoused community across Maryland, eliminating barriers and structural inequities to pathways out of poverty. As a non-profit that works exclusively with unhoused students and youth, SHIP knows how vulnerable the unhoused community is, and knows that acts of survival are often criminalized leading to more stress and trauma on the impacted individuals or families. Passing HB 640 is a critical step towards addressing systemic inequities and securing more opportunities, safety, and stability for our most vulnerable youth and adults.

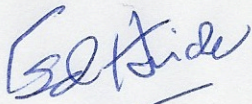
Under the Failure to Obey order, Black and African American individuals have been disproportionately harmed, and HB 640 presents an opportunity to begin to mend that hurt. For youth and young adults experiencing homelessness, BIPOC youth are overrepresented, as they are overrepresented in the juvenile justice and justice systems. If we are to seek racial justice, we must repeal the Failure to Obey order. The passage of HB 640 is critical if we hope to seek racial justice, humanize our unhoused neighbors, and end homelessness statewide.



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SHIP of Frederick County strongly urges the committee to issue a Favorable Report on HB 640. Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Hinde". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Ed Hinde, Executive Director
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