

EDITH J. PATTERSON, Ed.D.
Legislative District 28
Charles County

Ways and Means Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Racing and Gaming

Early Childhood

Chair

Charles County House Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of HB782

Public Schools – Purple Star Schools Program - Establishment

February 17, 2021

Dear Chairman Anne Kaiser, Vice-Chairman Alonzo Washington and Committee members of the House Ways & Means Committee:

House Bill 782 – Public Schools –Purple Star Schools Program Establishment provides for the establishment, administration and designation of public schools that meet specified criteria and qualifications. The Maryland Department of Education will serve as the administrator and designee of schools that meet the criteria and qualifications.

The Purple Star School Program is designed to help schools respond to the educational and social/emotional challenges military connected students face during their transition to a new school. This program recognizes our military families are frequently having to move every two to four years. A major benefit of this program will help to have continuous high standards and easy transition into communities. Further, students will have help to keep them on track for options after high school as their parents move during their military careers. The program will help students with class placement, counseling and other adaptive programs.

Currently, Purple Star School programs are in place or in development in eleven states: Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Montana, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. In Maryland, there are nine large military installations and counties that would benefit from this assistive service.

The Bill is enabling legislation for school districts.

I am seeking a favorable report for this proposed legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edith J. Patterson".

Delegate Edith J. Patterson
Legislative District 28