

## **SUPPORT HB 939**

Good Afternoon Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members. Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

My son has struggled with school since the first grade. It didn't take long to figure out he suffers from ADHD as he struggles to stay focused and on task which causes him to become frustrated very easily. So, while some students are having success with the virtual learning platform, just know he and many other students are struggling immensely. His struggle with ADHD was the main reason we enrolled him at Harford Technical High School so he would receive more hands-on instruction, but sadly he was only able to experience a half year before being denied an educational platform that best suited him. Looking at the revised opening plans he will still be in a perpetual state of failure as virtual learning does not work whether it be done in the classroom or at home. For the first two quarters of virtual learning, he has failed almost all his classes and if he fails again in the third quarter, not only is he looking at repeating the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, but will be in jeopardy of being expelled from the school that provided him the educational opportunities he desperately needed and the platform to thrive.

This past year I have witnessed him become unmotivated, overwhelmed to keep pace, unable to stay focused, lose contact with friends, become depressed and lose whatever self-esteem he had. I fear these consequences of his virtual learning

experience will continue to follow him in the years to come especially if it is determined he repeat this school year and lose his opportunity to be successful.

This School Choice legislation will allow parents the opportunity to make the best educational decision for our children and give them the chance to make up for the learning deficits they have experienced this year.

Thank you for reading my testimony and I strongly urge you to support HB 939

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