

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB630**  
**Public High Schools- Financial Literacy Pilot Program**

TESTIMONY: James Jones

This testament is being submitted on behalf of the members of Caucus of African Americans on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. This organization under my leadership, James Jones, Convener, is in full support of the Maryland State Department of Education piloting and creating a Financial Literacy Curriculum for Maryland students in grades K to 12.

It is vitally important that all students from all backgrounds and economic status have the opportunity to learn at each grade level important key topics which will help them plan for and be able to implement the actions and steps needed to succeed in life and to

have the opportunity to understand and build wealth for themselves. Too many students are graduating without even knowing the basics of managing money and saving for their future.

Thank you for your time,

James Jones,  
Convener of the Caucus of African Americans on the Eastern Shore of Maryland

MARY ASHANTI  
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Public High Schools-Financial Literacy Pilot Programs

I, Mary Ashanti, support H.B. 630 because it will require the State Board of Education to establish a Financial Literacy Pilot Program and develop curriculum content for certain public school students; authorizing each public school to implement the curriculum content beginning in a certain school year; and generally relating to a Financial Literacy Pilot Program in public schools.

For many years, young people have been graduating from school without the skills to manage money. This bill will address this issue. For this reason, I ask for a Favorable Report on HB630.

Respectfully,  
Mary Ashanti  
President Emeritus  
Wicomico County NAACP Branch 7028  
Community Advocate

Financial Literacy is desperately needed in our schools. The proposed grade level is a good beginning. I hope and pray that the bill passes, becomes permanent and that in the future we can begin this course of study in middle school.

Mary M. Thompson

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My name is Ruby Brown and I am a resident of Wicomico County Maryland on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

I truly believe that this bill is needed to help increase the knowledge base of Financial Literacy for all students. Just like other subjects, this important material needs to be introduced early and continued through graduation. My belief is that Financial literacy should become a requirement as this will benefit all students and help to ensure that they are better prepared to meet the challenge of life and how this knowledge will benefit them throughout their lives.

I am a member of the Caucus of African American on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and they have invited a speaker, Mr. Edward Lee, to discuss the importance of supporting this bill and how students on the Eastern Shore of Maryland have a need for this type of curriculum.

Recently, I spoke with an assistant principal at a school, who is considering retirement. This person said that she didn't think her Social Security would be enough to support her along with her 403B plan. She said she told her husband that she does not get a pension as an educator. I tried not to be shocked, as she is close to retirement and had no idea of what her resources would be regarding her pension, lack of investments, and the predicted amount of social security benefits.

This is an educated, educator!

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB630.

Thank you,  
Ruby Brown

I would like to give written testimony in favor of HB630. Kids have no idea how money works. I have a 4<sup>th</sup> and a 6<sup>th</sup> grader and neither of them can count out exact change at the store. I would love for them to learn how to balance a check book and learn how good credit works so they can buy a car and house of their own someday. Kids do not know how to survive in the real world and they get into trouble when they don't understand how money works and they open a bunch of credit cards. This problem of bad financial decisions will follow them their whole lives why not give them a head start with the right information early on? Some kids would even be able to help their parents become more fiscally responsible. No parent would disagree with this bill and I wish I would have had this type of program when I attended school.

Kristin Hazel