

TESTIMONY on behalf of HB #99

I, Eve Hassan , am asking the House Ways and Means Committee to vote favorably on HB #99 when it comes up for a vote.

COMAR (Code of Maryland Regulations) requires that financial literacy be taught Kindergarten through 12th grade (K – 12) in Maryland Public Schools. However, students are only required to take financial literacy until grade seven. After grade seven financial literacy becomes an elective. Notwithstanding, that research shows that some of the most formative learning, for students, takes place in grades K-12.

The “elective option” that is offered to students mitigates against students of color. Many of these students are disadvantaged in making adequate decisions regarding financial matters. This is because of social conditions, cultural backgrounds, and family knowledge relating to financial matters.

Passage of HB #99 will require financial literacy to be taught K-12. This action will provide all students with the opportunity to realize the American Dream, in pursuit of financial independence, as they prepare for their life journey.

Therefore, I request that you vote in favor of HB #99 as amended.