

TESTIMONY FOR HB0099

**Education – Public High Schools – Financial Literacy Curriculum**

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes

**Committee:** Ways and Means

**Organization Submitting:** Lower Shore Progressive Caucus

**Person Submitting:** Jared Schablein, LSPC Chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0099 on behalf of the Lower Shore Progressive Caucus. The Caucus is a political and activist organization on the Eastern Shore, unaffiliated with any political party, committed to empowering working people by building a Progressive movement on the Lower Eastern Shore.

It is essential to ensure that the curriculum being taught to our children prepares them for the world once they graduate college, regardless of whether they seek higher education. Speaker Pro Tem Sheree Sample-Hughes' bill requiring the State Board of Education to develop and implement a curriculum for financial literacy would do just that by teaching future generations how to handle their money and be financially independent adults.

These financial literacy skills are paramount for success in adult life and a good quality of life. As a 24-year-old proud graduate from public school here in Maryland, I wish I had access to a course on financial literacy while attending school instead of scrambling to learn these critical skills as a young adult. There is no doubt that this bill will result in smarter spending choices, better savings, and less poverty.

It is for these reasons the Lower Shore Progressive Caucus supports this bill and recommends a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.