

Bill: HB414 - Education - Maryland Council on Economic Education – Funding

Position: Support

Chairman Barnes, Vice-Chairman Chang and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cynthia D. Allen, and I am recently retired as Vice President Financial Advisor RBC Wealth Management, and a resident of Baltimore County. Additionally I am currently a substitute teacher in Baltimore County for Pre-K through 8th grades, and President of a non profit, Senior Citizens, Inc. serving the senior citizens in need in Baltimore County.

I am writing in support of HB414, which would provide additional funding of the Maryland Council on Economic Education, MCEE. I have been a member of the Board of Trustees of MCEE for nearly 10 years and can assure you of the immense difference the organization has made enabling the teachers of our state to help our students gain a vital education in the practicum of finances. This education will impact them as consumers, savers, and investors over their lifetime. i dare say some will become our next generation of business owners too.

MCEE has provided educational materials and a multimedia approach to bridge the education gap for the teacher and the student and for them to better understand and perform in the ever changing financial world.

I sincerely believe that passing this legislation will make a huge difference in the future financial success of our Maryland students, our future citizens, whether or not they go on to higher education.

Kind Regards,  
Cynthia D. Allen

Chairman Benjamin Barnes  
Room 121  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Bill: HB414 - Education - Maryland Council on Economic Education – Funding  
Position: Support

Chairman Barnes, Vice-Chairman Chang and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cindy Jones, and I am a resident of Harford County. I write in support of HB414, which would provide additional funding the Maryland Council on Economic Education. I currently serve as a Board Trustee for the Maryland Council on Economic Education; and in addition, I work for a credit union who serves educators. We offer financial literacy support in classrooms and I hear first hand from educators regarding the resources and training that they receive from MCEE and how valuable and important this training is to their classrooms and their students. Bill HB414 would ensure that all educators can be appropriately trained to deliver realistic and factual economic education to their students (thus ensuring an economically responsible future for the state of Maryland).

Sincerely,

Cindy Jones  
3206 Newfane Court  
Baldwin, MD 21013

January 24, 2024

Chair Benjamin Barnes  
Room 121  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Bill: HB414 - Education - Maryland Council on Economic Education –  
Funding  
Position: Support

Chair Barnes, Vice-Chairman Chang and Members of the Committee,

My name is Karen Gibbs, and I am a resident of Baltimore County. I write in support of HB414, which would provide additional funding for the Maryland Council on Economic Education. During my twenty-year association with this statewide organization, I can attest to the importance of MCEE's critical work: providing financial education to Maryland students K-12.

As a retired financial journalist and a firm believer in the transformative power of education, I know the importance of having skills needed to navigate the financial future, whether it includes college or pursuing a trade.

The benefits of MCEE's efforts extend far beyond the classroom. These skills, honed through programs such as the Personal Finance Challenge and the Stock Market Game, strengthen families and communities and strengthen our national economy.

Thank you for your consideration,

Karen P. Gibbs

January 23, 2024

Chairman Benjamin Barnes  
Room 121  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Bill: HB414 - Education - Maryland Council on Economic Education – Funding  
Position: Support

Chairman Barnes, Vice-Chairman Chang and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mark Ring, I am the Managing Partner of Jacob William Advisory, as well as a Board member of the Maryland Council of Economic Education, a resident of Baltimore City. I write in support of HB414, which would provide additional funding for the Maryland Council on Economic Education.

Financial literacy education and training is essential for both students and teachers in the State of Maryland. This education will help ensure that our public-school students have the necessary competency to deal with the complexities of our modern financial environment. MCEE provides resources and educational tools that allow one of our community's most important resources, our teachers, to educate our future consumers.

Sincerely,

Mark Ring  
[mring@jacobwilliam.com](mailto:mring@jacobwilliam.com)

Chairman Benjamin Barnes  
Room 121  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Bill: HB414 - Education - Maryland Council on Economic Education – Funding  
Position: Support

Chairman Barnes, Vice-Chairman Chang and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ken Venick, and I am Mortgage Banker and a resident of Baltimore County. I write in support of HB414, which would provide additional funding the Maryland Council on Economic Education. I have been in the mortgage business for 37 years and have seen first-hand what the lack of financial education can do to a consumer and a family. The perils of bad financial decisions can destroy families.

Watching consumers in distress from bad financial decisions is what got me involved with the MCEE over 15 years ago. The positive effect on students and teachers that have gone through MCEE programs is immeasurable. I have seen teenagers giving their parents advise on major purchases. In addition, the MCEE programs include the Stock Market game which teaches students the long-term benefits of investing. The state has always pushed for folks to participate in retirement accounts, the Stock Market Game instills this at a young age.

I cannot think of a better investment the State of Maryland can make in their economic future. The financially stronger the residents of the state will help everyone in the state.

Sincerely,

Ken Venick  
[ken@kenvenick.com](mailto:ken@kenvenick.com)  
410-598-9410

January 23, 2024

Chairman Benjamin Barnes  
Room 121  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Bill:** HB414 - Education - Maryland Council on Economic Education – Funding

**Position:** Support

Chairman Barnes, Vice-Chairman Chang and Members of the Committee,

My name is Laura Fisher, and I am a Board of Trustees member for the Maryland Council on Economic Education and a resident of Howard County. I am writing in support of HB414, which would provide additional funding the Maryland Council on Economic Education to enable its critical mission. I recently joined the Board in March 2023 to become an active part of their mission to empower Maryland's youth with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to be successful in life.

Young people in Maryland need access to financial and economic literacy education so they can be empowered to make informed decisions, and ultimately better themselves and shape their future. The Maryland Council on Economic Education provides free resources and training to teachers across our state, as well as interactive student programming that offers tangible financial and economic education in action. The demand for this competency continues to increase, and this requested funding will enable the Council to hire the necessary additional staff to enable the team to reach more Maryland teachers and students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura Fisher  
Director, Corporate Strategy with McCormick & Company, Inc.  
(410) 206-9187

To: House Appropriations Committee

Re: HB0414 Maryland Council on Economic Education (MCEE) Funding

Maryland employs over 60k teachers that serve nearly a million students. Currently MCEE is barely scratching the surface and only reaching a small portion of students (~24 school systems) and teachers (~2k) with their economic education programming, due to limited staff. I have had the pleasure of working closely with MCEE since December 2020, as a member of the Board of Trustees and Governance Board Development chair and see first-hand the growing backlog that can't be executed with minimal resources. Imagine the additional impact MCEE could make on teachers and students with a few extra hands?

I believe that economic education should be embedded in elementary through high school curriculum as it is so crucial to provide them with practical skills to manage money, make informed financial decisions and prepare them for future financial independence. MCEE is the engine to get it done but needs some additional fuel for the long road ahead. I appreciate your consideration in giving MCEE the support it deserves, to provide additional resources, to continue their financial education mission.

Thank you,  
Jennifer Heitner

January 20, 2024

Delegate Catherine Forbes  
Senator Craig Zucker

Senate and House Bills 414 “Education – Maryland Council on Economic Education – Funding”

The Maryland Council on Economic Education ( MCEE ) has just celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> Year of providing economic and financial literacy education for Maryland’s Youth. This has included individualized assistance to develop curriculum that includes economic and financial instruction as well as the development of assessments to measure that learning. This includes teacher workshops and courses to prepare the Teachers to teach the content of those courses. This include lesson plans as well as other classroom materials. Programs and seminars for adults and community groups are conducted on a regular basis. MCEE is known for The Maryland Stock Market Game AND the Maryland Economic Challenge that is conducted annually in Maryland and Nationally. These activities require knowledgeable staff and appropriate materials all of which require funding. Your Bills, cross-filed, 414 will greatly support MCEE’s Mission and Vision to provide economic and financial knowledge to Maryland’s Youth.

Fill free to use my support in moving these Bills through the House and Senate Committee’s, the full Legislature, and ultimately to the Governor’s Desk for approval.

Richard T. Webb  
Parkton, Maryland  
Board Member – MCEE  
Adjunct Faculty Member CCBC  
Retired President & CEO of a Financial Institution  
Past Co-Chair GBC’s Education Committee  
Past Chair Hunt Valley Business Forum  
Past Board Member Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce  
Financial Secretary United Methodist Church  
Former Member Federal Reserve Citizen’s Advisory Board



January 23, 2024

Chairman Benjamin Barnes

Room 121

House Office Building

Annapolis, MD. 21401

Bill: HB414 – Education – Maryland Council on Economic Education – Funding

Position: Support

Chairman Barnes, Vice-Chairman Chang, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michelle J. Coates, and I am Chair of the Maryland Council of Economic Education and a resident of Anne Arundel County, MD. I am writing in support of HB414, which would provide additional funding to the Maryland Council on Economic Education. Financial literacy education and training are important for students, teachers and all the citizens in the state of Maryland, and MCEE provides resources and educational tools to bridge the knowledge gap.

Gaining financial knowledge at an early stage in my life changed the trajectory of my family and has made a difference in my and our next generation.

Please support HB414.

Sincerely,

Michelle J. Coates

[dopeco@verizon.net](mailto:dopeco@verizon.net)

410-672-6007

Chairman Benjamin Barnes  
Room 121  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Bill: HB414 - Education - Maryland Council on Economic Education – Funding

**Position: Support**

Chairman Barnes, Vice-Chairman Chang and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kate Norman, and I am a Board member of the Maryland Council of Economic Education and a resident of Baltimore County. I write in support of HB414, which would provide additional funding to the Maryland Council on Economic Education. I have served on this board of MCEE for the last three years and have participated in programs directly engaging with students. I also serve on the Program Committee which considers how we can support teachers and students in the most impactful ways to advance economic literacy.

I began to work with this organization because I believe strongly in addressing root causes of economic inequality in Maryland. An understanding of basic economic concepts is essential to enabling all citizens to participate at higher levels in the job market and that basic financial literacy improves outcomes for Marylanders as they manage their households.

Sincerely,

Kate Norman  
[Grady.norman@gmail.com](mailto:Grady.norman@gmail.com)  
410.371.6550

February 2, 2024

Chairman Barnes  
Vice Chairman Chang and Members of the Committee

My name is Sherrice Davis, and I am the Vice President/Regional Community Reinvestment Officer at M&T Bank. I'm also a resident of Baltimore County.

I write in support of HB0414, which would provide additional funding the Maryland Council on Economic Education. Since 2021 I've had the pleasure of working alongside like-minded individuals that want make sure young people have access to the critical skills necessary for financial success.

Financial literacy education and training are important for students and teachers and MCEE makes sure there is access to resources, information, and materials to be and events to bridge the knowledge gap.

Financial and economic literacy is a social justice issue and research provides further evidence to support the need for investing in these critical skills.

Sincerely,

Sherrice Davis  
Vice President

**JOHNS HOPKINS**  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION  
— Built by and for the Hopkins community —

Chairman Ben Barnes  
Room 121  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Bill: HB414 - Education - Maryland Council on Economic Education – Funding  
Position: Support

Chairman Barnes, Vice-Chairman Chang and Members of the Committee,

My name is Keith O'Neil President/CEO of Johns Hopkins Federal Credit Union, and a resident of Howard County. I write in support of HB414, which would provide additional funding for the Maryland Council on Economic Education. I have known of the great work of MCEE for years and recently I was invited to join the board to help support providing financial education to our youth through the school systems across Maryland.

There are a number of statistics that outline the need for financial education and concerns across the country that adults are unable to take care of basic needs. MCEE provides an opportunity to begin addressing these financial gaps by working through our schools, K-12, to provide the necessary foundations for success. MCEE provides the tools for teachers and the engagement for children to integrate financial education into the existing curriculum and provide additional extracurricular activities to support further engagement. This is important in our schools because it allows all children despite economic background to build the foundations necessary for building generational wealth. Financial literacy is the movement our of time.

Sincerely,

Keith C. O'Neil Jr.

January 25, 2024

Chairman Benjamin Barnes  
Room 121  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Bill HB414 – Education – Maryland Council on Economic Education -  
Funding  
Position: Support

Chairman Barnes, Vice-Chairman Chang and Members of the Committee,

My name is Robert Barclay and I am a Senior Vice President of Sandy Spring Bank, a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Council on Economic Education (MCEE) and a Baltimore County resident. I write in support of HB414, which would provide additional funding to MCEE.

I have been honored to be a member of the Board of MCEE for over 7 years and during that time have witnessed many of the positive impacts the organization has had on the children and young adults of Maryland. Through overt programs, such as The Stock Market Game and the Personal Financial Challenge, to holding workshops for educators and lobbying for curriculum requirements for all Maryland high school students, MCEE has worked hard to improve the financial literacy of our children to prepare them for life as consumers, investors and fiscally responsible adults.

Personally, my sons have benefitted from a Personal Finance class taught in high school that widened their understanding of the economy, banking, the stock market and responsible saving and spending.

I implore you to pass this bill to enable MCEE to continue and expand its mission of reaching all Maryland students to prepare them for a successful and fiscally responsible life as earners, consumers, tax payers and citizens.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Barclay  
9104 Panorama Drive  
Perry Hall, MD 21128

Chairman Benjamin Barnes  
Room121  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Bill: HB414 - Education - Maryland Council on Economic Education – Funding  
Position: Support

Chairman Barnes, Vice-Chairman Chang and Members of the Committee,

My name is Liz Monti, and I am AVP of Financial Education at a local credit union, member of MCEE's board of directors and a resident of Harford County. I write in support of HB414, which would provide additional funding to the Maryland Council on Economic Education. I have been involved with MCEE since 2016.

Education in personal finance as you know, is extremely important. I believe, and research supports it, that by teaching youth the basic money concepts from an early age, they can build the knowledge, skills and behaviors that will help set them up for a lifetime of financial success. MCEE helps bridge the knowledge gap by providing training, resources and support to educators in the state of Maryland, and delivering engaging programs, such as the Stock Market Game, that help best prepare our students to make sound financial decisions in the future.

Respectfully,

Liz Monti  
[lizmmonti@gmail.com](mailto:lizmmonti@gmail.com)  
443-616-5181

January 23, 2024

Chairman Benjamin Barnes  
Room 121  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Bill: HB414 - Education - Maryland Council on Economic Education – Funding

**Position: Support**

Chairman Barnes, Vice-Chairman Chang, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Amy Grutzner, and I am a Board member of the Maryland Council on Economic Education and a resident of Montgomery County, MD. I write in support of HB414, which would provide additional funding to the Maryland Council on Economic Education. Financial literacy education and training are important for students and teachers in the State of Maryland, and MCEE provides resources and educational tools to bridge the knowledge gap.

Sincerely,

Amy Grutzner  
[asgrutzner@gmail.com](mailto:asgrutzner@gmail.com)  
301-928-381

Chairman Benjamin Barnes  
Room 121  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Bill: HB414 - Education - Maryland Council on Economic Education – Funding  
Position: Support

Chairman Barnes, Vice-Chairman Chang, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ashley Zumbrun and I am an Audit Director at SC&H Group and a resident of Howard County. I write in support of HB414, which would provide additional funding to the Maryland Council on Economic Education (MCEE). I was introduced to MCEE by a fellow coworker in early 2023. I was immediately drawn to MCEE's mission and joined the Board of Trustees and Finance Committee in March 2023.

Empowering children with the financial literacy needed to become confident, fiscally responsible adults is of utmost importance. MCEE provides teachers with the curriculum and support necessary to lead children down a road of financial independence. MCEE's outreach not only benefits the students that receive instruction, but also the teachers. Through MCEE's efforts, the teachers are also gaining knowledge and confidence in areas of personal finance. The positive impact that MCEE can make with this additional funding reaches far and wide.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Ashley Zumbrun*

Ashley Zumbrun