

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

Chairman Guy Guzzone
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Bill: SB414 - Education - Maryland Council on Economic Education – Funding
Position: Support

Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chairman Rosapepe 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 SB414, 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 23, 2024

Chairman Guy Guzzone
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD. 21401

Bill: SB414 – Education – Maryland Council on Economic Education – Funding
Position: Support

Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chairman Rosapepe 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 SB414, 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 SB414.

Sincerely,

Michelle J. Coates
dopeco@verizon.net
410-672-6007

Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chairman
Rosapepe 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 SB414, 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

Chairman Guy Guzzone
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Bill: SB414 - Education - Maryland Council on Economic Education – Funding
Position: Support

Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chairman Rosapepe 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 SB414, 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

January 23, 2024

Chairman Guy Guzzone
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Bill: SB414 - Education - Maryland Council on Economic Education – Funding

Position: Support

Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chairman Rosapepe 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 SB414, 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

January 22, 2024

Dear Senate Budget and Taxation Committee Members,

My name is Isaac Garonzik, and I am a junior in the Class of 2025 at Pikesville High School. I have always been interested in investing, finance, budgeting and stocks – but there never seemed to be outlets for high school students to learn about financial literacy. When I heard about the programs offered by the Maryland Council on Economic Education, I was thrilled and eager to participate. I finally had a resource to learn about securities, investments, stocks, and ways to analyze and make sound financial decisions. Through the Maryland Economic Council on Economic Education, I have participated in the Stock Market Game and won first place in the state of Maryland high school competition for the national InvestWrite Essay Competition. As Founder of the Stock and Finance Club at Pikesville High School, I research financial and investment topics, create my own lesson plans, distribute the plans, and teach a group of students about the topics at least monthly. The turnout is great, with teachers sometimes attending club meetings, since the desire to learn about these topics is so great. I also have arranged for speakers from the Maryland Council on Economic Education to speak with students as guest speakers.

High school students are craving a thorough understanding of financial matters, and access to more programs and outlets through the Maryland Council on Economic Education is a perfect way to fulfill that need. We need our teachers to understand these topics more so they can share that information with us and teach it to us – which will allow us to make smart and informed financial decisions in order to become self-sufficient and educated. The tools provided by the Maryland Council on Economic Education will help students and adults of every color, religion, and background in my school and others.

I am writing to request that you please support Bill SBO414, which will be presented in a hearing on January 31, 2024, in front of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. An annual \$200,000 recurring budget allocation for the Maryland Council on Economic Education will help so many students and educators. Financial literacy at a young age is so important and should begin at a young age. At the end of the day, everyone needs life's basic essentials, such as a shelter, food, and savings to take care of health related issues and many other needs. Learning about investing, saving, and managing money at a young age has taught me to make smart and informed decisions for my future. I may be young, but I work all year to make enough money to max out my Roth IRA, and others should understand why they should do the same. I learned about investing by reading everything I could about financial topics, but providing funding to the Maryland Council on Economic Education can help others learn about the actions they can take to strengthen their future financial stability. It is an important aspect of our public education that is limited but can be corrected by voting to invest in our financial education through Bill SBO404.

I am available to discuss the importance of Bill SBO414 with you anytime. I feel strongly about the positive impact the Maryland Council on Economic Education has made on my life, and I hope you pass Bill SBO404 to help others in the same way. You can reach me at ibg6@icloud.com or at 410 908 7048 anytime to discuss. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Isaac Garonzik
Pikesville High School Student (Class of 2025)



January 31, 2024

Chairman Guy Guzzone
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 414, which aims to provide essential funding for MCEE to expand its mission of providing financial literacy education resources in the state of Maryland. As the President and CEO of the MD|DC Credit Union Association and an honorary MCEE Board Member, I am deeply committed to advancing financial education initiatives that empower individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed financial decisions.

By investing in economic and financial literacy education, we are investing in the future prosperity of our state. Equipping students with the knowledge and skills to manage their finances responsibly not only benefits them individually but also strengthens our communities and economy as a whole.

As a leader in the financial industry and a passionate advocate for education, I urge you to support Senate Bill 414 and ensure its swift passage. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of Maryland students and empower them to achieve financial success.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any further information or assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Bratsakis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Bratsakis
President/CEO
MD|DC Credit Union Association

To: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Re: SB0414 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

Chairman Guy Guzzone
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Bill: SB414 - Education - Maryland Council on Economic Education – Funding
Position: Support

Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chairman Rosapepe 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 SB414, 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

January 23, 2024

Chairman Guy Guzzone
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Bill: SB414 - Education - Maryland Council on Economic Education – Funding
Position: Support

Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chairman Rosapepe 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 SB414, 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

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 70th 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 Guy Guzzone
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Bill: SB414 - Education - Maryland Council on Economic Education – Funding

Position: Support

Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chairman Rosapepe 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 SB414, 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
301-928-381

Chairman Guy Guzzone
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Bill: SB414 - Education - Maryland Council on Economic Education – Funding
Position: Support

Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chairman Rosapepe and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cindy Jones, and I am a resident of Harford County. I write in support of SB414, 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 SB414 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

Chairman Guy Guzzone
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Bill: SB414 - Education - Maryland Council on Economic Education – Funding
Position: Support

Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chairman Rosapepe 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 SB414, 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
443-616-5181

January 25, 2024

Chairman Guy Guzzone
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Bill SB414 – Education – Maryland Council on Economic Education - Funding
Position: Support

Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chairman Rosepepe 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 SB414, 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 Guy Guzzone
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Bill: SB414 - Education - Maryland Council on Economic Education – Funding

Position: Support

Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chairman Rosapepe 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 SB414, 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
410.371.6550

Chairman Guy Guzzone
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Bill: SB414 - Education - Maryland Council on Economic Education – Funding
Position: Support

Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chairman Rosapepe 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 SB414, 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
410-598-9410