



WES MOORE
GOVERNOR

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21401-1925

February 14, 2024

The Honorable Brian Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chairman Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Honorable Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

On behalf of Governor Wes Moore, I would like to express the Moore/Miller Administration's support for Senate Bill 377, Higher Education - Teacher Development and Retention Program - Definition.

Senate Bill 377, introduced by Senator King, will enhance the Teacher Development and Retention Program created last year in partnership between the Administration and the legislature by expanding eligibility for the program to include students at all community colleges. This expansion is a crucial step towards fostering the development of our future educators, diversifying the education professions, and addressing the shortage of educators in high-needs schools within the State.

Community colleges play a critical role in preparing individuals for careers in education and ensures that a diverse range of aspiring teachers have access to the Teacher Development and Retention Program. Put simply, Maryland does not train enough educators, and investing in the institutions that train the next generation of educators is a crucial component of our efforts to achieve the vision of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

Further, the Administration and the legislature have a shared goal to improve the diversity of the education professions. Maryland's community colleges serve a diverse group of students, with black students comprising 27% of the student population, more than twice the general population of the state. Expanding the program to cover all Community Colleges will help more of these students become educators by breaking down economic barriers to education training.

I urge a favorable report on SB 377 and recognize its potential to expand and improve educator development and retention in the State of Maryland.

Yours in Service,

Eric Luedtke
Chief Legislative Officer