



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

DAWN LUEDTKE
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 7

February 23, 2024

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

RE: Senate Bill 592, *Maryland Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program - Materials for Individualized Education Program Meetings*

Dear Chair Feldman:

I write in support of Senate Bill 592, which would require the State Treasurer to develop written informational materials about the Maryland Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) program and provide those materials to the State Board of Education and local boards of education for distribution to parents during individualized education program (IEP) meetings.

The Stephen Beck, Jr., Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014 established a new section of the Internal Revenue Code that permits states to establish and maintain a qualified ABLE program, another type of tax-advantaged savings program under which contributions may be made to an account that is established for the purpose of meeting the qualified disability expenses of the designated beneficiary of the account.

This legislation offers a simple, educational outreach opportunity to inform families about ABLE as they first begin their journey within the special education system, and at the established mandated checkpoints thereafter. This is needed because the special education process is laden with acronyms, oftentimes challenging to navigate, and complex. Thank you to Senator Zucker and his colleagues for sponsoring Senate Bill 592.

Very truly yours,

Dawn Luedtke
Councilmember, District 7
Montgomery County

cc: Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Committee