CORY V. McCRAY Legislative District 45 Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Health and Human Services

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Executive Nominations Committee

Legislative Policy Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight



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## **Vote Yes on Senate Bill 1081**

Title: Education - Public Schools - Driver Education and Transportation to Field Trips
Budget & Taxation Committee
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Hearing: March 06, 2024

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to request your favorable vote on **Senate Bill 1081** (Education – Public Schools – Driver Education and Transportation to Field Trips). This bill establishes the Driver Education in Public Schools Grant Program and the State-Aided Institutions Field Trip Grant Program. Both programs seek to enhance to the educational experiences and the safety of students across the state.

Under **SB1081**, the Driver Education in Public Schools Grant Program ensures that all students all students have access to comprehensive driver education courses. This grant offers a vital course to students by equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary to become responsible and safe drivers while in school. Offering driver education to students not only promotes safer roads and reduce accidents but empowers our young people with lifelong skills.

The State-Aided Institutions Field Trip Grant Program aims to enrich the educational experiences of our young scholars. Field trips seeks to give students a hands-on learning and real-world experience and help to connect some of the concepts learned in the classroom. However, transportation costs can often pose a barrier to accessing these valuable opportunities, particularly for schools with limited resources.

**Significance and Impact**: The significance of **SB1081** is it adjusts the allocation of penalties for the termination or lapse of required vehicle security. A portion of the fines will support the Driver Education in Public Schools Fund and the State-Aided Institutions Field Trip Fund. This aligns with the goals of promoting safety and helps to enhance educational opportunities for students while demonstrating a commitment to effectively utilizing resources.

In closing, I urge you to support **Senate Bill 1081**. By establishing these grant programs and reallocating fines from penalties for the termination or lapse of required vehicle security to support them, we can make significant strides in promoting safety on our roads and also enriching the educational experiences of our students.

Respectfully,

Cory V. McCray 45<sup>th</sup> District