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Environment and Transportation
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Colleagues,

I am testifying in support of House Bill 717. This legislation proposes an income tax credit for employers who allow parents and guardians to volunteer in elementary and secondary schools. It recognizes and incentivizes volunteers' invaluable contributions to our educational system.

The bill allows eligible businesses, which allow employees to volunteer in schools where their children are enrolled, to claim a credit against the state income tax. The credit amounts to \$20 for each volunteer hour, with a maximum claim of up to \$500 per taxpayer per year. This initiative supports our schools and fosters a community spirit by encouraging direct involvement in children's education.

HB 717 addresses critical needs within our schools by providing a financial incentive for volunteering, enhancing student learning experiences, and strengthening community engagement. The bill mandates the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Comptroller, to develop an application process and issue tax credit certificates, ensuring a structured and fair implementation. I recently introduced an amendment capping the program at \$1M; we will ensure that the resources are utilized most effectively and targeted to those in need. The section will be included in the final version of the project proposal for review.

I urge the committee to recognize the positive impact HB 717 will have on our schools, parents, guardians, and, most importantly, our children. It's a step forward in supporting our educational institutions and rewarding those who invest their time and energy into enriching our children's learning environment.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of House Bill 717.

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