

**Subject:** In favor of supporting HB0882  
Karime Ventura-Rivera  
Wheaton High School Wellness Center  
12401 Dalewood Dr, Silver Spring MD 20906

Dear Honorable Delegates,

As a Case Manager (CM) serving the parents and students at the Wheaton High School community, I am writing to share how the Horowitz Center for Health Literacy Hub has fundamentally improved my ability to serve my community. My role is to bridge the gap between essential health resources and the families who need them; the Horowitz Center provides the tools that make that bridge possible.

Before using the Hub's resources, navigating health information was a significant barrier for many members of the Wheaton community. Various families that I serve are faced with health challenges but are unable to receive the care they need due to language/socio-economic barriers. Through their support, I have seen a measurable shift in these key areas for various families and myself included:

- We can now quickly locate evidence-based, culturally relevant materials that are specifically tailored to the diverse populations of Maryland.
- In an era of health misinformation, the Hub has trained me to help families distinguish between "viral" myths and life-saving medical facts.
- The Hub's plain-language frameworks allow me to translate "medical jargon" into actionable steps. When a client understands why and how to take their medication or follow up with a doctor, health outcomes improve.

Health literacy is the foundation of health equity. I urge the Maryland Delegation to continue supporting the Horowitz Center for Health Literacy. Their work ensures that every Marylander, regardless of their primary language or education level, has the power to find, understand, and use the information they need to live a healthy life.

Sincerely,  
Karime Ventura-Rivera  
Case Manager of Wheaton High School Wellness Center