



**Local power, collective voice
for Maryland's children, youth and families**

January 22, 2025

SUPPORT – HB297 - Adult Education – High School Diploma Pathways – GED Option Pilot Program and MDiplomaWorks Pathway

Dear Delegates:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards, I am writing in support of **HB297 - Adult Education – High School Diploma Pathways – GED Option Pilot Program and MDiplomaWorks Pathway** which creates more pathways for people to obtain their GED. The GED Option Pilot Program will expand opportunities for people to earn their diploma and enter the workforce.

Local Management Boards in each county and jurisdiction in the State of Maryland conduct community needs assessments and address the needs of children and families in their respective jurisdiction. We regularly work with youth and families who are facing unemployment or underemployment. Failure to graduate is one of the barriers for young people trying to reach economic security. There are many reasons why a young person may not be able to complete high school. We should be supporting alternative pathways for young people to complete their education so they may have higher earnings and access to better jobs.

We urge you to support HB297 - Adult Education – High School Diploma Pathways – GED Option Pilot Program and MDiplomaWorks Pathway to create more access for obtaining GEDs and education.

Sincerely,

Pamela M. Brown, PhD
Legislative Chair
Maryland Association of Local Management Boards