

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF FREDERICK
COUNTY

Frederick, Maryland 21701
191 South East Street

Karen Yoho
Member

Telephone 301-696-6850
FAX 301-696-6950

We Set the Standard for Public Education

Bill: SB 317

Title: Frederick County – Career Exploration and Development Activities - Coffee

Position: SUPPORT

Date: Feb. 18, 2020

Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Contact: Karen Yoho, Member, Frederick County Board of Education

Good afternoon Chair Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the committee. My name is Karen Yoho and I am a member of the Frederick County Board of Education and the Legislative liaison. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of SB 317. I'm here to let the members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee know that our Board of Education supports this legislation.

When I first heard that we would have students selling coffee to other students, my teacher-parent self thought this did not sound like a good thing to be happening. But when I spoke with the teacher and other board members more familiar with the goals of the program, I understood its value. Our Learning for Life students, while not diploma bound, have skills that can enable them to be productive members of society and to find quality of life. Through the process of trial and error, they found that coffee presented the best way for the students to learn a rote process and, most importantly, provide an opportunity to interact with their same-age peers. These skills are key elements of these students' Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). To hear more about how selling coffee has impacted their lives, I am pleased to introduce the Learning for Life teachers from Frederick High School, Mr. J.P. Smith and Mr. Steven Dobbin, and even more pleased to introduce two of their students, Harshil Solanki and Naiya Mills. They've come all this way to tell you themselves what the passage of this legislation would mean to them. We'll first hear from Mr. Smith, followed by Harshil and Naiya. Thank you for your time and attention.

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