

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847

**Testimony submitted by:
Leslie Weber, Baltimore County Education Advocate
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Thank you so much for sponsoring House Bill 847 to establish the State Coordinator for Autism Strategy in the Department of Disabilities to develop an autism-related strategic plan in consultation with the Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs. As a long-time education advocate in Baltimore County Public Schools and the aunt of a nephew with Asperger's Syndrome, I'm aware of the dramatic increase in autism and the need to support children and adults with autism. My sister and her family are finding it much more difficult to access resources and receive support now that my nephew is no longer in the public school system. I believe they would be helped greatly by this strategic plan.

Thank you,

Leslie Weber