

February 6, 2020

Hon. Chair Ann Kaiser
6 Bladen Street, House Room 131
Annapolis, MD 21401

Madam Chair,

House Bill 450 expands the protections for the sale of caffeinated beverages in conjunction with a career exploration activity to all public high schools in the state.

Functional Academic Learning Support teachers advocate that coffee stand model offers what best practices have found to be one of the most effective career exploration activity for students with cognitive disabilities. These programs currently operate across the state of Maryland.

This week, we communicated with Ms. Bowman of Prince Georges County Public Schools who spoke of a program at Charles Flowers High School called Sonny House. Sonny House is a café style program that allowed students with cognitive disabilities to experience life skills in a café environment. Ms. Trinell reports that her department is working with Charles Flowers High School to set up similar worksites throughout the district.

Madam Chair I advocate to you that we should support these teachers and students by making this program legal.

Thank you for the hearing for House Bill 450. I am happy to take questions and I ask for a favorable report.

Delegate Robin Grammer