

Testimony – Written in favor of HB 1355 Primary and Secondary Education – Repeating Previous Grade Level

(Education Recovery Act of 2021)

Thank you for reviewing the following written testimony requesting a favorable report of this bill.

My son is 20 turning 21 this June. He is considered a senior. He receives special education services due to his diagnosis of Down syndrome, Autism and other learning disabilities. He has not been able to attend in person school since March 2020 due to Covid-19 shuttering schools. His school opened on March 1, 2021 two day a week – in person. The school closure has prevented him from having the socialization that he needs and receives so successfully while he is in school. He has lost the opportunity for learning and training by missing his senior year.

By passing HB 1355 my son and those like him, will be able to retain the benefits of school socialization and education that they have largely lost during 2020 and beyond. While he has attempted to participate in on line school this has not been nearly as successful for him as in person learning and being with his peers.

Thank you again for considering this matter and taking into account the time lost by those students who have missed essentially a year of learning.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark R. Brown".

Mark R. Brown

1316 Cherokee Lane

Bel Air, Maryland 21015

Mark.brown.g4fi@statefarm.com

410-832-8006