

Testimony offered on behalf of:
OLIVIA CRUDUP

IN SUPPORT OF:
HB 1170 – Primary and Secondary Education – Virtual Schools – Alterations

House Ways and Means Committee
Hearing: 3/3/2021 at 1:30 PM

I am Olivia Crudup from Joppa, Maryland. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I am writing to you to show my **SUPPORT for the HB 1170** regarding the Maryland Connections Academy being an attainable option for my daughter's education.

I am currently a stay-at-home mom; my husband is unfortunately laid off due to Covid-19, and we have 2 young daughters, the oldest is almost 4 and the youngest is almost 2. My husband and youngest daughter are considered high risk and my youngest has had a few health scares since the pandemic began. My friend (Karen Heathcote) referred Connections Academy to my children, knowing our circumstances. This program is thorough and inclusive to the values that I choose to raise my children with.

To send my child to in-person school is just not an option for my household for many reasons and this program would be the best source of education for my child. I have been preparing her by pre-school curriculums and they have not been the best way for her to learn. Unfortunately, we are not in the position to afford this form of education for her. If the **HB 1170** is approved, my daughter will have access to virtual school with the development of her building blocks of education and development of social skills. If you ask her, a virtual teacher would be able to teach her things that she would understand differently if I was to try and introduce her to.

Please, pass the HB 1170. This will be dramatically beneficial for the children who do not have the option to attend in-person school but being able to benefit similarly and not break the bank to provide the best education available to our children.

Please feel free to reach out to me with the contact information below.

Thank you for your time and efforts in **passing the HB 1170!**

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