



AMANDA FIEDLER
Councilmember
Fifth District

March 15, 2022

Madam Chair Atterbeary, Mr. Vice Chair Washington,

My name is Amanda Fiedler and I represent the 5th district on the Anne Arundel County Council. I write in support of HB 1441. I do not represent the entire council in my written testimony.

In May of 2019, the members of the County Council began review of the Fiscal Year 2020 budget, our first budget as a newly elected council. In doing extensive review, and discussions through public hearing on the proposed budget for Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS), an interesting fact regarding the replacement schedule of AACPS buses was learned. It was shared by the Chief Operating Officer, Alex Szachnowicz, that Anne Arundel County is required to retire a bus from service, per state law, when the bus is 12 years from its “make” date. This is unlike other jurisdictions in the state, as noted in the legislation before you.

While the fiscal note recognizes there is no material affect to State or AACPS finances or operations, I believe this common sense legislation would allow the school system to utilize available funding for other priorities, instead of retiring an otherwise useable transportation vehicle. The flexibility to use a bus for 15 years, with maintenance, has worked well, and without issue for our neighboring jurisdictions.

Bill1441 will give AACPS and the County the ability improve the use and longevity of invested tax payer dollars made to our school system. I respectfully ask for support from this committee.

Warm Regards,
Amanda C. Fiedler

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