



February 15, 2022

Maryland Senate  
11 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD. 21401

**In Support of SB 617 / HB 547: Local School Systems – Equivalent Access – Digital / Non-Visual Tools**

Members of the Maryland Senate’s Education, Health and Environment Committee.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1400 members and fully support establishing a grant program for equal access to school curriculum by students with disabilities contained within SB 617.

This bill would be a huge help to re assign the roles of state officials in charge of accessing, test / fine tune and provide appropriate digital tools to students with disabilities. By doing so, granting equal access to students that may have issues with limited, or no sight.

This kind of support system needs to be baked into the recipe of educational support programs as we move forward with the education of all of our children. Often parents would be the ones to purchase such digital tools for their children out of their own pockets rather than wait for the school system to procure them for their child.

Maryland students need these types of support programs to be in place and to help them equally access their education, and as we help them build toward a brighter future and improved outcomes for children with disabilities. This grant program can also make a positive impact on many of Maryland’s working families, support working moms and dads as they work to pay their bills, and to feed their families.

Please support Senate Bill 617 and return a favorable report. Thank you for your time, and for considering our testimony today.

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