

Subject: Favorable HB547;

To: House Ways and Means Committee

From: Dominique Sanders

6616 Danville Ave, Baltimore, Maryland 21224.

My name is Dominique Sanders. My daughter is blind. She is in the third grade and attends Harford Hill Elementary School. My daughter has a teacher of the visually impaired who provides her with access to the general education curriculum. My daughter and many other students with disabilities are denied access to the curriculum because the local school system chooses to use inaccessible programs and tools. Please vote in favor of HB547 so that students and parents do not have to overcome so many barriers to obtain an education.

In January 10-11, 2022, Baltimore County public schools closed due to Covid. All of the students were supposed to receive virtual instruction during this period. The Baltimore County Public School System uses Schoology, a learning content management system that does not work with the screen reading programs that my daughter must use to read the material on the computer. Since my daughter could not read any of the work, she could not participate in any class activity. I could not help her during the day because I had to work. I read the work to her at night, but she still missed out on instruction because the teacher was not available at night.

Students should not be penalized because they have a parent who has to work and cannot help them. The school system should not create barriers to learning. The school system should not discriminate against my daughter and my family. We pay the same taxes as all other citizens do and are entitled to a free and appropriate education. Please make sure that students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate education by voting in favor of HB547.