

**March 9, 2023**

**House Bill 1226**

**Economic Development - Nonprofit Sustainability Fund - Establishment**

**Position: SUPPORT**

The Summit School is a Type I full-day, Special Education and Related Services program for children with specific learning disabilities in grades one through eight. Our students are bright children whose dyslexia or other learning disabilities present challenges that have previously prevented them from finding success in other school placements. In an environment where the overall student/teacher ratio is 4:1, and instruction is implemented by highly trained teachers, our program is designed with the intention that our students can ultimately attend a mainstream high school and pursue their career and college goals.

HB1226 establishes the Nonprofit Sustainability Fund within the Department of Commerce to provide general operating support to nonprofit organizations in Maryland. It also establishes the Nonprofit Sustainability Fund Evaluation Committee to evaluate applications from eligible nonprofit organizations for grants from the Fund. Additionally, the bill sets criteria for eligibility for a certain grant from the Fund. The aim of the bill is to provide much-needed financial support to nonprofit organizations that provide essential programs and services to Maryland residents.

As a nonprofit full-day special education program, the Summit School is dedicated to providing specialized services and programs to students with learning differences. Our school, like many others, relies on donations and grants to support our mission and provide the necessary services to our students. Therefore, we fully support HB1226, which establishes the Nonprofit Sustainability Fund to provide general operating support to nonprofit organizations in Maryland. This support will be critical to the survival of nonprofit organizations, including the Summit School.

Additionally, the establishment of the Nonprofit Sustainability Fund Evaluation Committee will ensure that eligible nonprofit organizations receive grants based on objective and fair criteria. This will help ensure that the grants are used in a manner that will best benefit the individuals and communities that rely on these nonprofit organizations.

**For the aforementioned reasons we politely request your favorable SUPPORT for HB1226.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joan A. Mele-McCarthy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'J'.

Dr. Joan A. Mele-McCarthy, CCC-SLP  
Executive Director