

CRAIG J. ZUCKER  
*Legislative District 14*  
Montgomery County



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 122  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3625 • 301-858-3625  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3625  
Fax 410-841-3618 • 301-858-3618  
Craig.Zucker@senate.state.md.us

Budget and Taxation Committee  
Chair, Capital Budget Subcommittee

Chair, Senate Democratic Caucus

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker  
Senate Bill 934 - State Department of Education - Division of Rehabilitation Services  
- Funding and Staffing  
March 15, 2023  
1:00 PM  
Position: Favorable

Good afternoon, Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and distinguished members of the committee. It is my pleasure to testify today in **support** of **Senate Bill 934 - State Department of Education - Division of Rehabilitation Services - Funding and Staffing**.

Senate Bill 934 requires the Governor to include funding in the annual budget for the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) to receive its fully allotted share of federal vocational rehabilitation grand funding, and sufficient appropriations to employ 74 new staff members.

Under federal regulations, to receive full funding, a state must contribute 21.3% of funding for vocational programs and maintain at least its prior year funding amount for the program. The State commission that was established to study DORS recommended ensuring in statute the funding provisions required under federal regulations. They also suggested to the General Assembly in their December 2022 report that establishing 74 new positions to eliminate the vocational rehabilitation waitlist, reduce counselor caseload levels, and expand training and services in community-based settings.

Senate Bill 934 ensures federal funding, improves service delivery, and will greatly reduce the waitlist to receive services to rehabilitate and place disabled individuals who to gainful employment and to function more independently.

For these reasons, I urge the committee for a favorable report on Senate Bill 934. Thank you for your kind consideration.