

# Workgroup to Study the Wages of Education Support Professionals

SB 735

## Official Testimony

Position: **FAVORABLE**

To the Budget & Taxation Committee,

My name is Franca Muller Paz, I am a teacher of 13 years & educator in Baltimore City for the last 10. I'm a District 46 Baltimore City resident and an elected member of the Baltimore Teachers Union Executive Board. Workgroup to Study the Wages of Education Support Professionals SB735.

I am writing today to express the importance of studying the wages of paraeducators. Paraeducators are a vital part of our education system, providing essential support to teachers and students. They work in a variety of roles, such as instructional aides, special education assistants, and language translators. Despite their crucial role in the education system, paraeducators are often paid low wages.

It is crucial to study the wages of paraeducators because they play a critical role in supporting the education of our children. Paraeducators work directly with students, providing one-on-one support and facilitating small group learning. They assist teachers in creating lesson plans, grading assignments, and managing classroom behavior. Without the support of paraeducators, our education system would not be able to function effectively.

However, despite their importance, paraeducators are often paid low wages. Many paraeducators are part-time employees, which means they do not receive benefits such as health insurance or retirement plans. This makes it difficult for them to make ends meet and can lead to high turnover rates.

Studying the wages of paraeducators would provide important insights into the challenges they face and help identify ways to improve their working conditions. By raising wages and providing benefits, we can attract and retain high-quality paraeducators who are committed to supporting the education of our children.

In addition, raising the wages of paraeducators would also benefit our education system as a whole. Research has shown that a stable and well-compensated workforce is essential for creating a high-quality education system. When paraeducators are paid fairly, they are more likely to be satisfied with their jobs, which in turn can lead to better outcomes for students.

In conclusion, I urge a favorable vote on SB 735 to study the wages of paraeducators. I hope that soon after, we can use this information to take action to improve their working conditions. By investing in our paraeducators, we are investing in the future of our children and our education system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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