



Frederick County Teachers Association

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Testimony in Support of House Bill 222

Baltimore County and Frederick County -Career Activities in Public High Schools -Sale of Coffee by Students with Individualized Education Programs

House Ways and Means Committee

February 8, 2023

Melissa Dirks
FCTA President

The Frederick County Teachers Association (FCTA) supports House Bill 222, legislation that would allow schools to provide hands-on real-world career training to our students with Individualized Education Programs.

FCTA represents over 3,100 educators who work in Frederick County Public Schools teaching and preparing our students for future education, jobs and careers.

We are in favor of this bill because our students with Individualized Education Programs (IEP) do not need additional, unnecessary barriers to their success. The Learning for Life programs in our high schools have in the past used this opportunity not only to learn life skills in making the coffee but also the career skills of customer service, sales and cashier skills. Students with IEPs already face many challenges and barriers in their life. The Blueprint for Maryland's Future Law acknowledges need for increased support for our students with IEPs so this bill would be a continuation of support for our students with special education services. Special Educators should be able to use all feasible, meaningful, opportunities available to help their students overcome barriers in order to lead a meaningful life after graduation.

The passage of this bill would help provide career training opportunities for our students. **As such, on behalf of the members of FCTA, I ask that you vote favorably on HB 222.**