

Committee: Ways and Means

Testimony on: HB1219

Position: Favorable

27 February 2023

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on this important piece of legislation. My name is Meghana Kotraiah and I serve as the Speaker of the Legislature for the University of Maryland, College Park Student Government Association (SGA). On behalf of our SGA, I respectfully request a favorable report of House Bill 1219 to provide important funding for the Grow Our Own Educators Scholarship Program and Fund and the Educator Internship Stipend Program.

As a student pursuing a minor in Secondary Education in the College of Education, I aspire to be a teacher one day. In my classes, I am surrounded by a wonderful community of students who are unbelievably caring and kind about the next generation, and who are so driven and passionate about being teachers. As part of the education program, students have to student teach or intern, and for many, this can be an unfair financial burden. At the University of Maryland, many students in the College of Education are organizing and petitioning for fair compensation for student teachers.

The financial burden of taking a year or more of unpaid student teaching can discourage many students, particularly those who are lower income or who have difficulty paying for their own education, from wanting to be educators. These perspectives are important for us to value, and are relevant to what teachers will experience in their classrooms. Teaching is a profession that is absolutely imperative for the success of our state and our country. We need teachers, and the programs funded by this legislation would allow students who need it to be equitably compensated for their required student teaching, encouraging them to move forward in the profession.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB1219.

Thank you,



Meghana Kotraiah
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