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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 10, 2023

House Bill 1267 - Promise Schools- Establishment

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present **House Bill 1267 - Promise Schools- Establishment**, which addresses disheartening trends in our public educational system. Certain community schools in Maryland are producing low test scores at an alarming rate, and we must address these disparities in policy.

The State Department of Education will select 10 schools based on a performance scale. After selection, an analysis will be performed to organize key factors that are potential reasons for low testing scores. Once key issues are designated, \$2,000,000 from the annual budget will be allocated to help provide resources to overcome the issues that caused schools to perform at an unsatisfactory level.

This legislation seeks to promote test scores by delivering resources that have the potential to increase attentiveness and allowing faculty to devote more time to each student. The resources will help provide a catered learning initiative to overcome the school's obstacles and decrease low test scores. If enacted, this legislation aims to decrease low test scores by offering a \$7,000 bonus to educators for recruitment and retention, extending the duration of school hours and/or days, planning with precision to accelerate student learning, distributing free breakfast and lunch, incorporating highly skilled tutors and wraparound services.

House Bill 1267 addresses the socio-economic barriers that students in Maryland's marginalized communities experience. I urge the committee to give a **favorable report** for **House Bill 1267 - Promise Schools - Establishment**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jheanelle Wilkins'.

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins