

PAM LANMAN GUZZONE  
Legislative District 13  
Howard County

Health and Government  
Operations Committee

*Subcommittees*

Government Operations  
and Health Facilities

Insurance and Pharmaceuticals



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 216  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3083 · 301-858-3083  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3083  
Pam.Guzzone@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 983 State Personnel—Maryland Department of  
Health—Pay Rates**

**March 5th, 2024**

Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, Vice-Chair, and members of the Appropriations Committee. I'm Delegate Pam Guzzone, I represent Howard County's District 13 and I am here in support of House Bill 983 regarding pay rates for teachers.

As you will hear from my panel, this bill applies to the small number of teachers who work at the Regional Institutes for Children and Adolescents (RICAs) – Baltimore and Rockville. Specifically, the bill will expand the existing pay rate requirements passed in 2020 to include certain employees of bargaining unit G; more specifically it affects 9 teachers employed by Maryland Department of Health. These employees work alongside teachers employed by Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Montgomery County.

RICA facilities provide full spectrum mental health treatment and education for male and female adolescents aged 11 to 17.6. RICA Baltimore has both a residential program and day students who travel from multiple counties in the area for school. The children at RICA facilities have complex challenges, often a combination of developmental disabilities and mental health issues. In addition, many are there in an effort to divert them from the juvenile justice system.

While I do not know all the details of the 2020 legislation, I believe these employees and the conditions they work in on a daily basis mirror those of the employees granted similar standing in the original legislation. These employees – whose pay scale is significantly lower than the county employees they work with every day – are dedicated to improving the lives of children that, without their support, could easily fall through the cracks.

In the name of basic fairness, I request a favorable report on HB 983. Thank you.