



WES MOORE
GOVERNOR

ARUNA MILLER
LT GOVERNOR

STATE HOUSE
100 STATE CIRCLE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND
21401-1925

January 23, 2023

The Honorable Ben Barnes
Chair, Appropriations Committee
Room 121, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chairman Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee,
On behalf of Governor Wes Moore, I would like to express the Moore/Miller Administration's support for House Bill 75, Higher Education - Teacher Development and Retention Program - Definition.

House Bill 75, introduced by Delegate Ebersole, will enhance the Teacher Development and Retention Program created last year in partnership between the Administration and the legislature by expanding eligibility for the program to include students at all community colleges. This expansion is a crucial step towards fostering the development of our future educators, diversifying the education professions, and addressing the shortage of educators in high-needs schools within the State.

Community colleges play a critical role in preparing individuals for careers in education and ensures that a diverse range of aspiring teachers have access to the Teacher Development and Retention Program. Put simply, Maryland does not train enough educators, and investing in the institutions that train the next generation of educators is a crucial component of our efforts to achieve the vision of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

Further, the Administration and the legislature have a shared goal to improve the diversity of the education professions. Maryland's community colleges serve a diverse group of students, with black students comprising 27% of the student population, more than twice the general population of the state. Expanding the program to cover all Community Colleges will help more of these students become educators by breaking down economic barriers to education training.

I urge a favorable report on HB 75 and recognize its potential to expand and improve educator development and retention in the State of Maryland.

Yours in Service,

Eric Luedtke
Chief Legislative Officer