Subject: Written Testimony in Support of HB 1297

Dear Committee Members,

I am Dr. Kofi Nyarko, a Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Morgan State University and the Director of the Center for Equitable Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Systems (CEAMLS). With a career dedicated to advancing equitable and ethical AI technologies, I am compelled to express my strong support for HB 1297, which seeks to establish guidelines and standards for the responsible use of artificial intelligence in education.

The integration of AI in our educational systems holds tremendous potential to enhance learning, personalize education, and bridge gaps in accessibility. However, without thoughtful regulation and ethical considerations, the deployment of AI technologies can perpetuate biases and inequalities. HB 1297 represents a critical step towards ensuring that AI is used to support and enrich the educational experiences of all students, regardless of their backgrounds.

The bill's emphasis on developing evidence-based methodologies and professional development programs for educators in the realm of AI is particularly commendable. By empowering teachers with the knowledge and tools to effectively utilize AI, we can foster an environment where technology serves as a catalyst for learning and creativity.

Furthermore, the bill's focus on safeguarding personal information is paramount in an era where data privacy concerns are increasingly prevalent. Establishing clear standards for the ethical use of data in educational AI applications is essential to maintaining the trust and confidence of students, parents, and educators.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support HB 1297, as it aligns with our shared goal of creating an educational system that leverages technology to enhance learning outcomes while upholding the highest ethical standards. Thank you for considering my testimony on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Kofi Nyarko, D.Eng.
Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Director, Center for Equitable AI and Machine Learning Systems