

***SUPPORT HB116/SB84***

*Submitted January 29, 2024*

In a time marked by significant teacher vacancies and the need for career-oriented opportunities for students, Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) supports HB116SB84, establishing the Teacher Apprenticeship Startup Grant Program. The need for innovative solutions to address the shortage of educators has never been more apparent, and this bill provides a worthy and viable approach that also aligns with the Blueprint for Maryland's future career ladder and college and career readiness pillars.

The Teacher Apprenticeship Startup Grant Program is an innovative and necessary step toward providing students with opportunities to embark on a rewarding career in education. The establishment of apprenticeships, designed to intricately develop career paths, is an effective means of accelerating the entry into the teaching profession. Furthermore, the program ensures that aspiring educators are equipped with the practical experience necessary for success in the classroom.

Financial support is crucial in overcoming barriers to the implementation of apprenticeship programs, and the bill's provision for the Department of Labor to award up to \$500,000 for the development and launch of teacher apprenticeship programs is supported by HCPS as a critical investment in the future of education.

The collaboration between the program sponsors and the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee to develop a high school-level program is a testament to the bill's comprehensive approach. This partnership ensures that the program aligns seamlessly with educational standards and provides a structured pathway for high school students interested in pursuing a career in education.

Overall, HCPS supports HB116SB84 as this bill holds tremendous promise in fostering a new, more diverse generation of educators, addressing teacher shortages, and promoting unique career pathways in the field of education.



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