



MARYLAND SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTING AND TAX PROFESSIONALS

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To: Ways and Means

From: The Maryland Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals

Re: HB 719

Contact Person: Giavante' Hawkins

Position: IN FAVOR

Income Tax – Credit for Parent and Guardian Volunteers in Elementary and Secondary Schools

On behalf of the Maryland Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals (MSATP), representing over 2,000 tax professionals serving hundreds of thousands of Maryland taxpayers, I enthusiastically support House Bill 719, establishing a tax credit for parent-teacher volunteers.

Our public schools face immense challenges in educating tomorrow's leaders, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds. While state funding guarantees access, community participation is vital for enriching experiences and nurturing children's limitless potential. Yet parent-teacher engagement continues declining statewide, depriving students of mentorship while burdening understaffed schools.

House Bill 719 provides an innovative solution mobilizing parents through a refundable \$500 tax incentive for volunteering just 25 hours annually in their children's classrooms, libraries, field trips, or school events. Making participation financially worthwhile for guardians by allowing certified credits against their taxes helps schools, invigorates learning, and strengthens communities.

Our members strongly support proactive policymaking, where modest public investments yield outsized social returns. House Bill 719 epitomizes that ideal. The MSATP applauds the legislation's fiscal prudence, achieving immense academic and civic benefits through accountability measures, ensuring credits match genuine service. We urge a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration.

Giavante Hawkins

