

Subject: Favorable HB1076

Date: February 21, 2024

To: House Ways and Means Committee

From: Garret Mooney

1123 N Eutaw St. Apt 601, 21201

Email: [james.garret.mooney@gmail.com](mailto:james.garret.mooney@gmail.com)

Please support HB1076, a bill that will solve the problem for blind students of getting textbooks at the same time as their sighted peers. The bill shifts the responsibility for acquiring these special textbooks from local districts to the Maryland State Department of Education, requiring the local education agencies to make their decision early on which textbooks to use in the previous school term for the coming year and requiring publishers of textbooks purchased in Maryland to provide an electronic copy of textbooks to the National Instructional Material Access Center.

My daughter, Brailley is in the third grade at Dorothy I. Hight Elementary School in Baltimore City. She is expected to read one book a month and write a report on it. When her class goes to the library, she is given a regular print book to take home, which is useless to her. She should have some books transcribed in Braille to choose from. The school and the vision program should remedy this problem. If the textbook publishers give the National Instructional Materials Access Center electronic copies of books, they can be made more available to Brailley and other blind students.

Please vote in favor of HB1076 and give my daughter and the other blind students the opportunity to get a quality education.