

Subject: Favorable HB1076 Textbook Equity for Blind Students Act

Date: February 21, 2024

To: House Ways and Means Committee

From: Walter Sanders

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Please vote in favor of HB1076 because my daughter deserves the same equitable education as her sighted peers.

My daughter's name is Riley, she attends Cockeysville Middle School, and she is in sixth grade. Over the years, Riley has had difficulty getting some of her textbooks on time, such as math. Consequently, she frequently cannot do the homework at the same time as her sighted peers, she must wait for the vision teacher to braille it for her. Sometimes, Riley is exempt from the homework altogether. She must take her tests later than her peers and does not have the opportunity to study all the material. I am concerned about the mixed messages that the teachers are giving Riley. They are allowing her to skip homework or to do it late which is a terrible precedent to set for Riley's future in employment. Do you ever tell your boss that the work must be late? Do you tell your boss the tasks that you must skip? Of course not. Riley should not have to develop bad habits because the school system is not providing her with her textbooks or instruction materials on time.

Please vote in favor of HB1076 so that Riley and other blind students can receive an equitable education. The solutions proposed in this bill will go a long way in solving the problems that blind students face in getting their textbooks and instructional materials.