

The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
120 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Barnes,

My name is Nasir Haye, a senior at Old Mill High School. I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1245, as it threatens the invaluable career coaching services that have been pivotal in shaping my future.

As a first-generation American with roots in Jamaica, and raised by a single mother unfamiliar with the educational and vocational opportunities available in the U.S., I faced significant challenges in navigating my career path. Fortunately, our school's career coach dedicated time and effort to understand my interest in electrical engineering. They introduced me to professionals in the field, facilitating connections that led to potential apprenticeship opportunities. These apprenticeships are a critical step toward obtaining certification and embarking on a career as an electrician.

Programs like the Electrical Apprenticeship at Howard Community College, recognized by the Apprenticeship and Training Program Councils in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., offer structured pathways for students like me to gain hands-on experience and formal education in the electrical trade.

The guidance and support I received were instrumental in bridging the gap between my aspirations and the resources necessary to achieve them. Eliminating the Career Counseling Program, as proposed in HB 1245, would deny future students access to personalized guidance essential for discovering and pursuing their career interests.

I urge you to consider the profound impact that career coaches have on students, especially those from backgrounds similar to mine. Please vote against HB 1245 to ensure that all students continue to receive the support they need to succeed.

Sincerely,
Nasir Haye
12th Grade
Old Mill High School