Honorable Members of the Legislature,

I stand before you today to express my strong support for The Blueprint for Maryland's Future and the critical role of career coaching in our schools. These initiatives are not just investments in education; they are investments in the future workforce, economy, and overall success of our students.

The Blueprint ensures that every student—regardless of income, background, or ability—has access to meaningful education and career pathways. It goes beyond traditional academics by opening doors to real-world opportunities, helping students connect what they learn in the classroom to tangible career success.

Through career coaching, we are giving students the tools to explore their interests, develop essential skills, and make informed decisions about their futures. This program has already made a profound impact:

- We've engaged with over 200 local businesses, bringing real-world professionals into schools to guide students.
- Internship participation has increased in every single high school in the county.
- One student, through career coaching, discovered an interest in pharmacy, secured a job as a pharmacy cashier, and is now on a path to becoming a certified pharmacy technician—before even graduating!
- Workforce development professionals have worked one-on-one with over a third of students in the county's alternative high school, helping those with the greatest barriers to employment build a future.

For the first time in nearly a decade, students in this school will participate in mock interviews, preparing them for real-world job opportunities. This is more than just career exposure—it is empowerment. Students are learning valuable employability skills that will make them strong employees, innovative entrepreneurs, and future leaders.

I urge you to continue supporting *The Blueprint for Maryland's Future* and career coaching programs. Together, we can ensure that every Maryland student has the opportunity to thrive—not just in school, but in life.

Thank you.
Ashley Josyln