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

Subject: Opposition to HB 1245- Protecting Career  
Counseling for Maryland Students

Dear Chairman Barnes and Members of the House  
Appropriations Committee and the Ways & Means  
Committee,

As a Career Coach, Small Business Owner and Parent  
working directly with Maryland's students, I am writing to  
express my strong opposition to HB 1245, which would  
eliminate the Career Counseling Program for Middle and  
High School Students. This program is critical in preparing  
young people for their future careers, connecting them with  
real-world workforce opportunities, employer networks, and

in-demand Career pathways. Eliminating it would be a significant step backwards for Maryland's students, workforce, and economy.

As a career coach, I work with students, employers, and educators to ensure young people understand Career options, apprenticeships, and workforce training opportunities. Removing this program would:

- **Hurt students** by limiting their access to career exploration, job readiness training, and employer connections.
- **Hurt Employers** who rely on a skilled talent pipeline to meet workforce demands in high-growth industries.
- **Hurt Maryland's Economy**, as students graduate without clear pathways into family-sustaining careers, leading to higher unemployment and skills gaps.

Rather than eliminating a program that is already proving successful, Maryland should be investing further in Career coaching and workforce-aligned career counseling. I urge you to reject HB 1245 and preserve the Career Counseling Program for Middle and High School Students. Maryland must continue investing in the future of its students, ensuring they have the knowledge, skills, and support necessary to thrive in their careers and contribute to our state's economy.

As BOTH a Mom and Small Business Owner, education and opportunities are vital to opening doors for the next generation of minds. It is critical that our children and young adults make a connection between education and all the careers that are available to them. As a young child, I was encouraged to thrive through education from the working professionals in my own family, which include: Retired P.A.'s, Head Nurses, Educators, Nuclear Physicists, Postal Workers, Government Workers, Mail Carriers, All Branches of the Military and Paralegals. Due to early nurturing of education and career development, I earned a partial scholarship in Elementary School and became a Nationally Certified Personal Trainer and Kettlebell Coach.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome the opportunity to share more about how Career coaching is positively impacting students across Maryland.

Sincerely,

**Roshaun A. Osborn**  
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**Development Corporation**  
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