

Ariana N. Martin  
3137 Flanders Court  
Waldorf, MD 20602  
ArianaMartin0526@gmail.com

February 27, 2025

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,

My name is Ariana Martin, and **I am an 11th-grade student** within the Charles County Public Schools System, specifically located in Waldorf, Maryland. I am writing to you today with deep concern regarding the proposed bills, particularly **HB 1245**, that seek to repeal the career counseling law in Maryland, which enables workforce development for middle and high school students.

As a student nearing graduation in 2026, I have experienced firsthand the critical need for effective workforce development and career guidance. **I have not received any college preparation from my high school.** The preparation I received was from my own mother not from the Maryland Public School System - **Receiving emails and announcements with scholarship opportunities and a few rushed visits to college campuses is not considered workforce development nor career counseling. I am 16 and I know that.**

**Career Counselors and Coaches are needed in our schools.** We need to know what careers are out there and how to actually begin preparing for the workforce. I am grateful for our teachers who are preparing me and my peers academically, **but it is not their jobs to prepare us for the workforce – they don't have the experience, knowledge or skills of a Career Coach.** I strongly believe that Workforce Development Career Counselors are essential and need to be present in our schools to provide us with research opportunity, counseling, and support, career mapping and exposure to industry-related fields, and opportunities for us to take advantages of many other programs and services offered by our local Workforce Development staff. **Please, I don't want to graduate high school and not know how to enter the workforce.**

**Repealing career counseling, as proposed in HB 1245, would severely impact disadvantage students like me across Maryland,** particularly those from under-resourced communities, who may not have access to alternative sources of guidance. **I am both Hispanic and African American – I need these services.**

I urge you, Chairman Barnes and Members of the House Appropriations Committee and the Ways & Means Committee, to consider the real-life impact of these proposed bills. **Please vote against HB 1245 and any other legislation that seeks to dismantle the career counseling programs in our schools.**

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Ariana Martin

Ariana N. Martin  
3137 Flanders Court  
Waldorf, MD 20602  
ArianaMartin0526@gmail.com

February 27, 2025

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

**Subject: Opposition to HB 1461 – Protecting Career Counseling for Maryland Students**

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

My name is Ariana Martin, and **I am an 11th-grade student** within the Charles County Public Schools System, specifically located in Waldorf, Maryland. I am writing to you today with deep concern regarding the proposed bills, particularly **HB 1461**, that seek to repeal the career counseling law in Maryland, which enables workforce development for middle and high school students.

As a student nearing graduation in 2026, I have experienced firsthand the critical need for effective workforce development and career guidance. **I have not received any college preparation from my high school.** The preparation I received was from my own mother not from the Maryland Public School System - **Receiving emails and announcements with scholarship opportunities and a few rushed visits to college campuses is not considered workforce development nor career counseling. I am 16 and I know that.**

**Career Counselors and Coaches are needed in our schools.** We need to know what careers are out there and how to actually begin preparing for the workforce. I am grateful for our teachers who are preparing me and my peers academically, **but it is not their jobs to prepare us for the workforce – they don't have the experience, knowledge or skills of a Career Coach.** I strongly believe that Workforce Development Career Counselors are essential and need to be present in our schools to provide us with research opportunity, counseling, and support, career mapping and exposure to industry-related fields, and opportunities for us to take advantages of many other programs and services offered by our local Workforce Development staff. **Please, I don't want to graduate high school and not know how to enter the workforce.**

**Repealing career counseling, as proposed in HB 1461, would severely impact disadvantage students like me across Maryland,** particularly those from under-resourced communities, who may not have access to alternative sources of guidance. **I am both Hispanic and African American – I need these services.**

I urge you, Chairman Barnes and Members of the House Appropriations Committee and the Ways & Means Committee, to consider the real-life impact of these proposed bills. **Please vote against HB 1461 and any other legislation that seeks to dismantle the career counseling programs in our schools.**

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Ariana Martin



Ariana N. Martin  
3137 Flanders Court  
Waldorf, MD 20602  
ArianaMartin0526@gmail.com

February 27, 2025

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair  
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Subject: Opposition to SB 852 – Protecting Career Counseling for Maryland Students**

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee and the Budget and Taxation Committee,

My name is Ariana Martin, and **I am an 11th-grade student** within the Charles County Public Schools System, specifically located in Waldorf, Maryland. I am writing to you today with deep concern regarding the proposed bills, particularly **SB 852**, that seek to repeal the career counseling law in Maryland, which enables workforce development for middle and high school students.

As a student nearing graduation in 2026, I have experienced firsthand the critical need for effective workforce development and career guidance. **I have not received any college preparation from my high school.** The preparation I received was from my own mother not from the Maryland Public School System - **Receiving emails and announcements with scholarship opportunities and a few rushed visits to college campuses is not considered workforce development nor career counseling. I am 16 and I know that.**

**Career Counselors and Coaches are needed in our schools.** We need to know what careers are out there and how to actually begin preparing for the workforce. I am grateful for our teachers who are preparing me and my peers academically, **but it is not their jobs to prepare us for the workforce – they don't have the experience, knowledge or skills of a Career Coach.** I strongly believe that Workforce Development Career Counselors are essential and need to be present in our schools to provide us with research opportunity, counseling, and support, career mapping and exposure to industry-related fields, and opportunities for us to take advantages of many other programs and services offered by our local Workforce Development staff. **Please, I don't want to graduate high school and not know how to enter the workforce.**

**Repealing career counseling, as proposed in SB 852 would severely impact disadvantage students like me across Maryland,** particularly those from under-resourced communities, who may not have access to alternative sources of guidance. **I am both Hispanic and African American – I need these services.**

I urge you, Chairman Feldman and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee and the Budget and Taxation Committee, to consider the real-life impact of these proposed bills. **Please vote against SB 852 and any other legislation that seeks to dismantle the career counseling programs in our schools.**

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Ariana Martin

