

**Testimony
of
William C. Taylor
Before the
Maryland General Assembly
Budget and Taxation Committee
Senate Bill – SB 161
Public Hearing
on the
State Department of Education - Driver Education and Career
and Technical Education - Funding**

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee. My name is William C. Taylor of Fort Washington, Maryland.

I am the Founder and Executive Director of the Coalition for Public Safety Training in Schools Incorporated.

My purpose for being here today is in support of Senate Bill 161 for the career and technical education to provide students with the skills and driver's education to become college and career-ready by having a driver's license in hand.

In addition, this bill will support other workforce development initiatives that will enable students to be successful in their career paths.

The Coalition for Public Safety in Training in Schools has developed a deep and abiding commitment to ensure there is a balanced representation in educational opportunities for our students.

I am advocating for opportunities that will support education and allow all students to become productive and contributing members of our community.

We cannot afford to lose sight of driver education which is no longer provided in high schools.

It is critical for our students to have the opportunity to learn and obtain the skills necessary to operate a vehicle.

I applaud the enhanced focus on Senate Bill 161 and ask this committee to take the necessary action to include the Coalition for Public Training in Schools Incorporate in the annual

budget to help increase the number of students to have access to driver education and career and technical training.

I ask the committee to vote favorably on Senate Bill SB 161 .

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee.