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Local Board Chair  
Anne Arundel County Local Workforce Development Board  
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The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair  
Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee  
110 College Ave  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Support for House Bill 772

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee,

On behalf of the Anne Arundel County Local Workforce Development Board local workforce I am writing to strongly urge your support for **House Bill 772**, which continues career counseling services led by Maryland's local workforce development boards. As you know, Maryland's local workforce boards and their partners at the state's community colleges and local education agencies are providing career counseling services to Maryland's middle and high school students in accordance with the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

This model is already demonstrating success in Maryland and is gaining national recognition as a best practice. As you know, Maryland's local workforce development boards are uniquely positioned to bridge the gap between education and employment. Through direct partnerships with businesses, educators, and community organizations, we provide real-time labor market insights and direct employer connections, ensuring that students and job seekers receive career counseling aligned with actual workforce needs.

This approach is already making a significant impact:

- Over 200 workforce professionals have been dispatched to middle and high schools throughout Maryland to support career counseling.
- In just the first year, more than 190,000 students were reached through workforce-led career guidance, helping them explore pathways into high-demand careers.
- States across the country are looking to Maryland as a model for how workforce boards can enhance career counseling and strengthen talent pipeline development.

In Anne Arundel County we have brought on 39 Career Coaches who are working in all middle

schools, high schools, and charter schools to provide career exposure, awareness, and preparation. To date we have seen students make better connections between what they are learning in class with future careers and build connections with careers through interactions with local businesses. It is not just the local board that is seeing the results, we are hearing great feedback from school admin who work with our Career Coaches every day. When asked about the impact of the program, one Assistant Principal at Southern Middle School said “The guidance and inspiration [Mr. Rice] provides at such a formative time in their lives are truly invaluable. Mr. Rice is shaping not only their careers but also their confidence and sense of Purpose.”

House Bill 772 continues the work of the workforce development boards and their partners in career counseling, ensuring that every student in Maryland has access to the knowledge and resources necessary to make informed career decisions. This legislation is not just about guidance—it’s about equipping Maryland’s future workforce with clear, attainable pathways to good-paying, in-demand jobs.

We respectfully ask for your **support in advancing House Bill 772** to ensure that Maryland continues leading the way in workforce-aligned career counseling. Thank you for your time and Consideration.

Sincerely,

**Brian Lynch**

Local Board Chair

Anne Arundel County Local Workforce Development Board