

Molly Evans
In-School Career Coach
Anne Arundel Workforce Development

613 Global Way
mevans@aawdc.org
February 26, 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,

As a current in-school career coach working directly with AACPS students and a former classroom teacher, I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 852, which would eliminate the Career Counseling Program for secondary 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 backward for not just Maryland's students but for our workforce and economy.

In our rapidly changing world, it is more imperative than ever to ensure that students are adequately prepared with the skills and experiences they need to successfully transition out of high school and into the workforce and/or higher education. I believe that removing this program would be a grave disservice to all hard and meaningful work that Maryland has done to eliminate the achievement gap and provide equitable and valuable education to all students. This will negatively impact not just our schools and students; this program provides resources, opportunities, and a bridge to workforce development for our families and communities as well.

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 meaningful 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 SB 852 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.

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,

Molly Evans
In-School Career Coach
Anne Arundel Workforce Development