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of Howard County**

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**Board of Education of Howard County  
Testimony Submitted to the Maryland Senate,  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
April 2, 2025**

**HB0772: UNFAVORABLE**

**Education - Career Counseling Program for Middle and High School Students –  
Alterations**

The Board of Education of Howard County (the Board) opposes **Education - Career Counseling Program for Middle and High School Students – Alterations** as an extension of a pilot program that would benefit from flexibility rather than continuing without embedding any lessons learned or innovating improvements.

As a component of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, a Career Counseling Program for Middle and High School Students was implemented as a pilot collaboration between local school systems and local workforce development boards. HB0772 eliminates the pilot and instead extends distribution of money from the local school systems to the workforce development boards through FY28 as amended by the House.

The implementation of partnerships with local workforce development boards has been challenging and inconsistent for counties across Maryland. The Blueprint set up a model that while valuable in bringing together important agencies, has seen differing outcomes between local school systems and local workforce development boards. The Career Counseling Program for Middle and High School Students was intended to be a pilot with evaluation at the conclusion determining if the partnership should continue.

While the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) appreciates the intent of the program, flexibility to set up and fund a model that gives each entity responsibilities that align with their strengths could increase services and cut down on duplication to make the program more effective. At the very least, funding and accountability measures to determine the future of the program would be warranted. By arbitrarily extending the program as is, HB0772 takes away the ability of local school systems to reimagine continued collaboration with local workforce development boards.

For these reasons, we urge an UNFAVORABLE report on HB0772 from this Committee.