

The Honorable [Delegate Luke Clippinger](#)  
Judiciary Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
101 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Testimony in Support of HB1442

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB1442, which seeks to expand educational support programs to Baltimore City, identify the root causes of chronic absenteeism among students, and implement appropriate wraparound services to ensure students remain in school and receive the support they need. As a [resident of Maryland/community advocate/professional title], I believe this legislation is a crucial step toward addressing the systemic barriers that prevent children from accessing quality education and achieving their full potential.

As a member of Southeastern Community Relation Council, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that many families in Baltimore City face, including economic hardship, lack of transportation, mental health struggles, and inadequate access to essential services. HB1442 offers a practical and effective solution by identifying these root causes, providing targeted interventions, and ensuring that families receive the necessary support to keep their children engaged in school.

The benefits of HB1442 include:

- Expanding the program to Baltimore City, ensuring that vulnerable students receive the assistance they need.
- Identifying the root causes of chronic absenteeism to develop effective strategies for keeping children in school.
- Providing appropriate wraparound services, such as mental health support, housing assistance, and family counseling, to address the challenges preventing regular school attendance.
- Promoting equitable access to education, allowing all children the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive in a safe environment.

This legislation aligns with Maryland's commitment to fostering stronger, safer, and more equitable communities. By enacting HB1442, the General Assembly will take a meaningful step toward reducing absenteeism, improving student outcomes, and ensuring that all children have the opportunity to succeed.

I urge the committee to issue a favorable report on HB1442. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Brant Fisher  
Southeastern Community Relations Council