



Brian Lynch  
Local Board Chair  
Anne Arundel County Local Workforce Development Board  
613 Global Way, Linthicum, MD 21090  
brian.lynch@umm.edu

February 19, 2025

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair  
House Ways and Means Committee  
130 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Support for House Bill 772

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

On behalf of the [LOCAL WORKOFRCE AREA] local workforce development board, 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 Principle 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brian Lynch".

**Brian Lynch**  
Local Board Chair  
Anne Arundel County Local Workforce Development Board