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SOUTHERN MARYLAND DELEGATION

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DELEGATE, DISTRICT 28

February 12, 2025

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

Re: HB0772: Education - Career Counseling Program for Middle and High School Students – Alterations

Dear Chair Atterbeary:

On behalf of the Southern Maryland Delegation, I am writing to share our support for House Bill 772: Education - Career Counseling Program for Middle and High School Students - Alterations.

Maryland's economy depends on a well-prepared, career-ready talent pipeline. By ensuring that each county board of education dedicates funding to local workforce development boards for career counseling services, HB 772 creates an essential bridge between education and workforce needs. The bill's structured funding mechanism—beginning at \$62 per student in fiscal year 2024 and adjusting for inflation thereafter—provides sustainable resources that will directly impact students, helping them explore career pathways, gain industry insights, and access work-based learning opportunities.

The partnership between local education agencies, workforce development boards, community colleges, and businesses, is vital to ensure students receive relevant career guidance tailored to Maryland's in-demand industries. These collaborations will help address skills gaps, reduce youth unemployment, and align student aspirations with real workforce opportunities.

We respectfully ask for your support of HB 772. Investing in career counseling today means building a stronger, more resilient workforce for tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edith J. Patterson".

Delegate Edith J. Patterson  
Chair, Southern Maryland Delegation

