

March 11, 2025

Ways and Means Committee The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair The Honorable Jheanelle Wilkins, Vice Chair

HB 1447 – Education – Maryland STEM Program

**Position: Support** 

My name is Adam Katz and I have been involved with the New Jersey STEM Education program in my state since its inception. Now in its fifth year, we have seen this program grow tremendously, with teacher participation growing seventeen-fold since its first year, giving more opportunity to both public school teachers and nonpublic schools. We are already seeing even more applications for this upcoming round (program year six) than ever before.

<u>Here</u>, you can see the New Jersey Department of Education Guidance on the website outlining the program and the process for teachers and schools to apply. And <u>here</u>, you can see the FAQs.

Over these five years, the New Jersey Department of Education has worked with both schools and teachers to achieve a program that is beneficial to everyone. My role, working for a nonprofit Teach Coalition, is to promote the program and recruit teachers and schools.

Based on the success of this program in New Jersey, I urge the committee members to vote favorably.

I look forward to answering any questions that may arise at the hearing.

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