

SENATE BILL 726

By: Senator Feldman

Position: **IN FAVOR**

My name is Charlene Faison. I am a parent of a Baltimore City Public Schools graduate and I am a Baltimore City resident. I am a mentor with Higher Achievement Program's Mount Royal Elem/Middle School location and Executive Board Member with the Parent and Community Advisory Board.

Higher Achievement provides a safe space for scholars in 5th – 8th grades. During my mentoring sessions, I often start off by asking the scholars how their day and week was since we last met. They feel comfortable so they tell me a lot!

Because I am not an educator and do not work at the school, I believe they are comfortable with me and that is why they tell me about the teachers they do not like and even fear. My own child, when he attended Mount Royal would repeatedly tell me about the same teacher. After he matriculated to High School, students at the school would still tell me similar stories about the same teacher and her odd behavior. My son once said to me, 'I don't think she is qualified to teach 6th grade English.' No child should feel that any of their teachers are not qualified to teach because of their inability to manage their own emotions and make it through a class period.

As a parent, mentor and someone with friends and family in the education field, I have seen the stress educators face. I have seen them not know how to process their own feelings, let alone help a child to try to navigate their own feelings as they mature.

SB0726 is necessary because educators need to understand how to balance their own work-life health and find a sense of well-being so they may flourish in the classroom and outside of it. The proposed subjects for which the course to be created would cover are an excellent start and I support it, not just as a parent and mentor but also as a certified youth and adult mental health aider. Stress is real. Mental health is real. Without healthy outlets, educators would be doing a disservice to the students they serve because they may project their emotions onto coworkers and students.

For these reasons, I ask for a **favorable** report on SB0726.

Respectfully,

Charlene Faison, MFA

- *Certified Mental Health First Aider, Youth and Adult*

- *Notary Public*

- [PCAB](#) Executive Board Member, Treasurer and [Policy Committee](#) Chair

- *Parent, Baltimore City Schools Graduate, Poly c/o '25*

- [Higher Achievement Program](#) - Alum, Current 6th grade mentor, Baltimore Advisory Board Member, and 50th Anniversary Planning Committee Member

- [LinkedIn](#) Profile

- *Writing Consultant, [The Baldwin Prize](#)*