

Testimony on HB1205 – FAVORABLE

Education - Minimum Wage for Education Support Professionals

House Ways and Means Committee – March 11, 2026

Ways and Means Committee and Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit **FAVORABLE testimony in support of HB1205 and cross-filed Senate legislation, SB764.**

One of the key elements of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future is the commitment to raising teacher compensation so we can recruit and retain educators while also making Maryland an education destination. But classroom teachers cannot do their jobs alone, and any parent knows the valuable role that education support professionals play in our children's education.

As noted in the Fiscal and Policy Note, this legislation will have a cost on LEAs and I fully expect some LEAs will oppose this proposal on that basis. Yet seeing MSDE and DLS estimates showing that 34% of education support professionals statewide are currently earning less than \$25 per hour is not only jarring, but also a failure to respect and adequately compensate more than 16,000 education employees who play an important role in our schools every day.

By raising compensation for educators through the Blueprint, it is to be expected that compensation should increase for *other* education employees as well. That is not a flaw; it is an affirmation of the central role that public education plays in our communities and as a pillar of our economy. It makes the case for continued investment in the Blueprint and other public education priorities – meeting statutory funding levels as intended when the Blueprint was passed so that we can continue to invest in both Maryland students as well as the educators and education support professionals that students rely upon.

Thank you to Delegate Wims and each of his co-sponsors for introducing this legislation – and I respectfully urge a FAVORABLE report on HB1205.

Timothy Meyer

Former 5-term PTO president at Mount Rainier Elementary, Prince George's County

Individual Advocate with the Blueprint Coalition