

**SB 904/HB 1254:** Education - Public Schools - Professional Development: Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Ways & Means Committee:

I am writing as a resident of Maryland in **support of SB 904/HB 1254**, Education – Public Schools – Professional Development.

This legislation takes important steps to strengthen Maryland’s public schools by:

- Requiring the Maryland State Department of Education to design and develop a statewide system of high-quality professional development specifically for paraeducators and other education support professionals (ESPs).
- Expressing the intent of the General Assembly that these essential staff receive at least two days of paid, high-quality professional development each school year.

Paraeducators, classroom aides, transportation staff, custodial workers, and other education support professionals play a vital role in the daily success of our schools and the well-being of students. Providing them with dedicated, high-quality professional development recognizes their importance and helps them better support student learning and school operations.

This bill invests in the people who keep our schools running while ensuring accountability in how taxpayer dollars are spent. Strengthening support and training for education support staff is a smart investment in Maryland’s public education system.

I respectfully urge you to support **SB 904/HB 1254** and vote in favor of its final passage.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals