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Senate Education, Health, and Environment Committee
The Honorable Paul Pinsky
2 West Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

RE: SB 133 - Education – High school Students – Graduation and Attendance Credit for Vocational Training

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to introduce Senate Bill 133 which aims to provide high school credits to those students who wish to enroll in a vocational-based course.

Currently, there is no option for Students to take credit based vocational courses in high school. Vocational training is an integral part of our society and is something we should encourage students to look at if they have an interest in it. With this bill, we will provide the possibility for students to engage in vocational training while earning school credit towards their graduation. This will help as to avoid adding extra work onto students as well as providing an incentive for the students to take the courses. This bill would limit the amount of vocational courses to one per semester in a career and technical education program approved by the respective local county school board. Under a registered apprenticeship program the county board may count toward a high school attendance the time that the apprentice or youth apprentice spends during the work-based training as well as the time a student spends during vocational training in a career and technical education program approved by the county board.

We should not limit our students to the areas in which they can explore potential career interests, and by adding this option at the high school level we can help those students explore a more diverse array of career options while at the same time earning credit for their graduation. It is for these reasons I ask for a favorable report on Senate Bill 133.