



SOUTH BALTIMORE 7
UNITED COMMUNITIES

The Honorable Bill Ferguson
President of the Senate
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 12, 2021

Dear President Ferguson:

The South Baltimore 7 Coalition (SB7) writes in support of SB 630 – the Adult Education High School Pilot Program. SB7 is a partnership between six community organizations in South Baltimore whose goal is strengthening the South Baltimore communities by strategically tackling shared challenges. One of those challenges involves a lack of resources and accessibility to education, particularly for adults. Our mission follows:

*To inspire, enlighten, motivate, and empower our communities to maintain their greatness; to create a strong coalition to advocate and revitalize communities; To enhance quality of life through **improvement of education**, housing, public health, public safety and economic development.*

The benefits of this bill passage will reach far beyond its participants. Education is a right that has far too long been treated as a privilege that further perpetuates the class divide. With access to grants or and funding provided by the Program, participants will be given the opportunity to better themselves and, in turn, better the communities in which they live, work and serve. This fits directly with SB7's tenets of providing better access to education for our communities.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (410) 355-1145 or mmiddleton@chdcmd.org.

Sincerely,

Michael Middleton

Michael Middleton
Chair, South Baltimore 7 Coalition