



♥ ADULT LEARNING CENTER

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Testimony HB 97

House Economic Matters

January 26, 2021

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Davis & Members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

As the Executive Director of the Adult Learning Center in Baltimore, I see adult learners every day who are working hard to learn English, gain necessary skills for employment, and get their GEDs. Since March, we have successfully transitioned to distance learning. By far the biggest challenge we have had is our students having reliable internet access in their homes to effectively participate in Zoom classes and work on the various online platforms we have tried to use. Delegate Lierman's bill would, simply put, be a gamechanger for the adults in Baltimore and the entire state of Maryland looking to improve their lives.

HB 97 would establish the Office of Digital Inclusion in the Department of Housing and Community to ensure that every resident of the State is supported by high quality broadband Internet service at an affordable price and, has the tools necessary to use and take advantage of the Internet.

We urge your favorable report for this bill, as I believe that Maryland needs one central office dedicated to broadband expansion for the whole state.

We respectfully request a favorable report for HB 97.

Submitted by:

Jesse Schneiderman, Ed.D.

Executive Director, Adult Learning Center