

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 831  
Education Support Professionals – Workgroup and Bonus**

**Senate Budget & Tax Committee  
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1:00 PM**

**Brad Fisher  
Education Support Professionals of Baltimore County**

Greetings Chair Guzzone and Honorable Members of the Budget & Tax Committee. My name is Brad Fisher. I am an education support professional (ESP) in the Baltimore County Public Schools system, and I am the MSEA ESP of the Year. Today, I am providing testimony in support of SB 831, a bill that will provide not only a bonus to ESPs but work to find a long-term solution to low wages and issues of retention.

I am a career changer who moved from finance to education because I wanted to do more impactful work in my community. My work in education started as a paraeducator and I now work as an administrative assistant specializing in finance.

Since making my career transition to education, I have been able to see the first-hand positive impacts ESPs make on students. School support staff are the backbone of the safe, healthy, and supportive learning and working environment that must exist if educators and students are to succeed. Many ESPs are second or third generation school employees who contribute to the communities they live in. It is imperative that students are exposed to positive role models who look like them and share similar backgrounds. For their extraordinary and essential commitment, support staff deserve a fair wage and recognition for the value they bring to education.

**I kindly urge the committee for a favorable vote on SB 831.**