

Testimony IN FAVOR of SB831 Education Support Professionals Workgroup & Bonus

Dear Chair Buzzone and the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

I strongly SUPPORT SB 831, the Education Support Professionals Workgroup & Bonus legislation.

As you know, filling Education Support positions was difficult even before the pandemic and is even more difficult now. During the pandemic, Education Support Professionals pitched in the took on even more responsibilities. SB 831 will provide an immediate relief with a well-deserved \$500 bonus.

This Workgroup will determine what percentage of our Education Support Professionals are not receiving a Living Wage. The Workgroup will also investigate the best ways to raise the wages of these Professionals.

Better salaries for all our educators, especially our Education Support Professionals, will help maintain a dedicated, community-based workforce and ensure the success of the intent of the Blueprint for Education, which is to provide a fully staffed, safe and healthy learning environment for all our students.

Respectfully,

Gail Jankowski
Berlin, Maryland