



February 18, 2022

Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD. 21401

**In Support of HB 749: Natural Resources – Maryland Park Explorers Grant Program - Establishment**

Members of the Maryland House of Delegates, Environment and Transportation Committee.

Our 1400 plus membership of families supports this bill, and the establishment of such a great, health and nature -focused program.

What a great idea to bring nature, equity and inclusion to student populations that may have limited or no access to green spaces. Growing up as a child in the city, I know what it can mean to the mental wellness of a young person to get out into the state woods, and enjoy its parks.

To quote famous naturalist and national parks advocate John Muir: *and “Wilderness is a necessity, there must be places for human beings to satisfy their souls”, “Nature’s peace will flow into you as sunshine into trees” and “Of all the paths you take in life, make sure some of them are dirt”*. Such great advice!

After the events of the past 2 years, now more than ever, we all need to be outside enjoying more nature. Getting back to nature nourishes the soul. Preserving these spaces and giving a whole new generation of Marylanders the appreciation for green spaces. While also improving equity of access to all of our state’s natural wonders as essential for the overall health and well-being of Marylanders.

Please return a favorable report on HB 749 in order to provide programming while improving access to green spaces all across the state of Maryland.

Mr. Richard Ceruolo | [richceruolo@gmail.com](mailto:richceruolo@gmail.com)  
Parent, Lead Advocate and Director of Public Policy  
Parent Advocacy Consortium (Find us on Facebook/Meta)  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ParentAdvocacyConsortium>